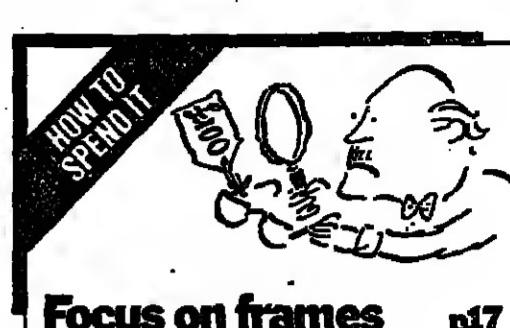
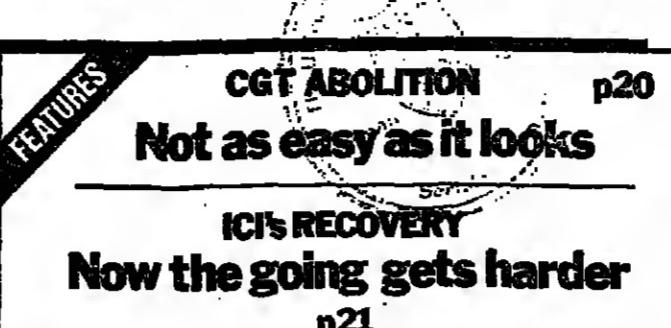


FREEDOM TO DEVELOP

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NEWPORT



WORLD NEWS

IRA attack condemned by Hurd

Ulster Secretary Douglas Hurd said that the IRA terrorists who killed nine RUC police officers in a mortar bomb attack at Newry, used an indiscriminate weapon which could just as easily have killed civilians.

Touring the station, he said the attack only strengthened the Government's determination to "pursue a robust security policy."

It was a stroke of good fortune of the IRA and ill fortune for the RUC that one mortar bomb had fallen on a portable cabin used as a police canteen, he said. IRA's bad雁away weaponry. Page 4

Kinnock demand refused

The Prime Minister told Labour leader Neil Kinnock in a letter that an inquiry into M16 phone tapping activities should only determine whether authorised taps were carried out and should not, as the Labour leader demanded, investigate unauthorised interceptions.

Gromyko warning

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko warned that if the arms race were allowed to "erupt in space" the possibility of nuclear war was "no exaggeration." Page 2

Bangladesh martial law

Bangladesh President Hossain Ershad reimposed martial law, banned all political activity and announced he would hold a referendum this month seeking a vote of confidence. Page 2

Heroin inquiry stalled

The Zambian High Commissioner in London was asked to waive the immunity of diplomat Godfrey Lubanga to allow inquiries to continue into alleged heroin smuggling. A search of Lubanga's home was called off after he invoked his diplomatic status.

Moors cases for review

Moors murderers Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, jailed for life 19 years ago for a series of child murders, are to have their cases reviewed. Home Secretary Leon Brittan confirmed.

Bonn pledge on Mengel

The West German government is to press Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner for the extradition of Nazi war criminal Josef Mengel during Stroessner's visit to Germany in July, a senior German justice ministry official said.

Iraqi diplomat shot

Iraqi assistant cultural counsellor Hadi Awwad Saeed and his son, Hosni, were shot dead by four gunmen in Kuwait.

Nicaragua hopes

Nearly 12 years of military rule ended in Uruguay with the inauguration of President Julio Cesar Sanguineti. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto spoke in Montevideo of his hopes of normalising relations with the US. Page 2

Briefly...

TV broadcaster Sir Robin Day went into hospital for heart bypass surgery.

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere will have talks in the UK from March 17-20.

MARKETS

DOLLAR

New York lunchtime:

DM 3.3445

FF 10.2125

SwF 2.855

Y259.95

London:

DM 3.35 (3.3425)

FF 10.245 (10.205)

SwF 2.875 (2.855)

Y260.3 (259.5)

Dollar Index 154.3 (153.5)

Tokyo close Y260.5

U.S. LUNCHEON RATES

Fed Funds 8.75%

3-month Treasury Bills: 8.56%

Long Bond: 9.5%

yield: 11.83

GOLD

New York: Comex March latest

\$239

London: \$287.25 (288.75)

Chief price changes yesterday. Back Page

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Ford and Fiat discuss co-operation

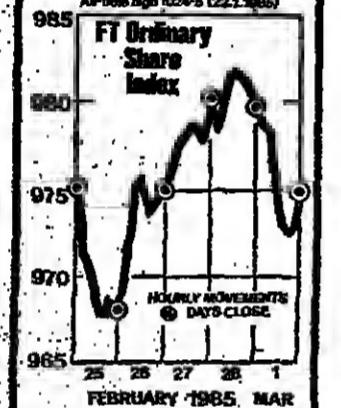
FIAT, leading Italian motor group, is holding intensive talks with Ford, the second largest U.S. motor company, which could lead to a co-operative agreement for the European market. Such a deal would be Fiat's first with a U.S. motor group. Back Page

BRITISH RAIL plans to buy about 1,500 new locomotives over the next 20 years, at a cost of about £1.5bn at today's prices, but warned it would not necessarily buy British. Back Page

ZAMBIA drawings on its R225m (£198m) standby borrowing facility have been halted pending agreement with the IMF on radical measures to restructure the country's economy.

EQUITIES ended a see-saw week dably as leading shares lagged under the weight of persistent fund-raising. The FT

All-share index 1024.5 (221.905)



Ordinary share index declined steadily, but picked up before the close to end 42 down on the day at 975. Page 26

ICI made a £145.5m share placing to finance part of the cost of its acquisition of Bechtel Chemical in the U.S. Page 22

JAGUAR chairman Hamish Orr-Ewing has stepped down after only eight months in the post. He will be replaced by chief executive John Egan. Page 3

PAY: Almost 900,000 local government manual workers in England and Wales are expected to accept a 10-month pay deal worth £4 a week to all grades. Page 6

LLOYD'S BANK decided to take up its entitlement to shares in the recent rights issue by Royal Bank of Scotland. Lloyds is entitled to just over 12m shares at 210p each, costing a total £25.3m. Page 22

TOKYO share prices rose to their fifth record close in six trading sessions, led by drug and biotechnology issues. The Nikkei-Dow Jones index gained 90.22 to 12,412.14. Page 24; Asahi shares soar. Page 2

TAIWAN police arrested Tsai Chep-Chou, head of financially troubled Cathay Plastics and the Tenth Credit Co-operative, after parliament approved the action. Page 23

FINANCIER Sir James Goldsmith is considering joining forces with Wall Street financier Carl Icahn, who is planning a hostile bid for Phillips Petroleum of the U.S. Page 23

AWELING BARFORD, Grantham-based construction equipment group, expects to sign a seven-year £60m deal on Monday to build dump trucks in China. Page 4

ATTACK BY EUROPE'S BANKS FAILS TO BRING DOWN DOLLAR

BY PHILIP STEPHENS IN LONDON AND STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN CENTRAL banks launched another major attack on the dollar yesterday, spending up to \$1.5bn in concerted intervention, but failed to reverse the currency's upward trend, which was buoyed up by a sharp rise in the U.S. index of leading economic indicators.

The joint action, led by West Germany's Bundesbank and including most other European central banks, was only slightly smaller in scale than their dramatic raid on the dollar on Wednesday.

But while the mid-week intervention sparked a steep fall in the U.S. currency's value, yesterday's dollar sales succeeded only in preventing it from rising rapidly.

The muted effect made central bankers reluctant to publicise the full extent of their action, again in sharp contrast to Wednesday, and the foreign exchange markets probably did not appreciate the size of the intervention.

Part of the explanation for the market's calmer reaction was that dollar sales were spread fairly evenly throughout the day, while on Wednesday most intervention was concentrated in a short period.

European monetary officials acknowledged that the latest move had not been as carefully timed as the previous action.

STERLING closed at 105.3 (105.20) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

DOLLAR index 154.3 (154.20) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

SWITZERLAND franc 1.075 (1.0745) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

FRANCE franc 500 (500.50) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

GERMANY mark 3.345 (3.345) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

ITALY lira 10.2125 (10.2125) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

SPAIN peseta 12.412.14 (12.412.14) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

SWEDEN krona 1.075 (1.0745) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

NETHERLANDS guilder 3.40 (3.40) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

NETHERLANDS florin 1.075 (1.0745) on Friday, having risen 1.5% in the week.

mean that none finally gains a majority.

In that case a fourth option, returning the decision on the strike's future to the area executives could come into play. In that case, so many areas would decide to end the strike that it would effectively be over, but not till later next week.

Yesterday two of the country's strongest left-led areas adopted positions which, while agreeing that a return to work without an agreement was the "honourable" course, took different positions on the

issue of achieving a general amnesty for miners "victimised" in the past 12 months.

That condition will not be fulfilled, as the NUM leaders know. The Scottish NCB later said that there was no question of a general amnesty for the 180 Scots miners sacked out of the 12,500-strong workforce, and added that, with some 50 per cent of that workforce back at work, there was also no question of the union "leading" them back.

The pressure for a return,

EXPECTED VOTING PATTERN

(Number of votes in brackets*)		TOTAL 62
Certain or likely to vote to return to work: Cumberland (2) N. Derby (5) Durham (5) N. West (3) Northumberland (3) N. Wales (2) Leicester (3) Scotland (5) S. Wales (9) Group 1 (4) Group 2 (2) Cosa (7) executive members (2)		
Certain or likely to vote against: Kent (2) power group (2) executive members (2)		TOTAL 6
Intention unknown: Cokement (2) Midlands (5) Yorkshire (24) executive members		TOTAL 38
Certain or likely not to vote: national officials (3) sponsored MPs on executive (2)		TOTAL 5
Unlikely to attend: Nottinghamshire (13)		TOTAL 13

* Some variation in figures possible because of changes in area membership.

MINERS: This week's return		Total now working
SCOTLAND		5,602
NORTH EAST		11,582
YORKSHIRE		7,182
MIDLANDS		25,811
NOTTS		5,576
S. YORKSHIRE		12,485
W. YORKSHIRE		1,564

By Duncan Campbell-Smith

BRITISH AIRWAYS has emptied-handed and apparently dispirited from its latest attempt in Washington to resolve the impasse between it and Export-Import Bank of the U.S. over how best to settle the outstanding debts of Laker Airways.

Hopes of an imminent solution to the Laker problem— which effectively stands between BA and privatisation— seem to have been set back seriously by another meeting with Exim on Thursday afternoon.

Exim is the largest of the Laker creditors. It has so far shown no readiness to accept the terms of an out-of-court settlement for all the Laker debt, as proposed by BA on behalf of the 12 defendants to the \$1.65bn (£975m) civil and trust case brought by Mr Christopher Morris of accountants Tonche Ross, the Laker

defendants' legal team. Both Exim and BA yesterday stressed their hope that further talks would take place. It was clear, however, that the usual optimism of BA's senior executives had been dented by Thursday's failure to prompt much, if any, real change in Exim's negotiating position.

BA is believed to have told the British Government the gap with Exim remains so big as to render further talks almost pointless—unless the bank can be persuaded to take a different approach. Exim is owed about \$76m. The value of its Laker debt has already been substantially written down in Exim's books; but BA is probably offering less than \$26m which would still leave the bank with a significant book loss.

The UK and U.S. governments have exchanged views on the problem this week, though it is unclear whether the impasse found its way on to the agenda for Mrs Thatcher's visit to Washington last week.

Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, has also sought help from Pan American World Airways and Trans World Airlines—two defendants in the Laker case—to mobilise a lobbying effort against Exim's stand.

Continued on Back Page

Continued on Back Page

Continued on Back Page

OVERSEAS NEWS

Space weapons may increase threat of war, warns Gromyko

BY TOM BURNS IN MADRID

MR ANDREI GROMYKO, the Soviet Foreign Minister, warned yesterday that the possibility of a nuclear war was "no exaggeration". If the arms race was allowed to "erupt in space."

Mr Gromyko accompanied his threat with an olive branch: "Once Star Wars projects are abandoned the possibilities will be opened for a reduction—even a drastic reduction—of strategic weapons and medium-range nuclear arms."

The Soviet Foreign Minister was speaking at a Madrid Foreign Ministry reception given in his honour by Sr Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, on the second day of an official visit to Spain.

While not mentioning the U.S. directly, Mr Gromyko implicitly criticised Washington, saying there were ridiculous attempts to convince public opinion "that the path towards disarmament lies in the creation of increasingly sophisticated new types of weapons."

He said Moscow's response to such new weapons would be firm and uncompromising. "Attempts to achieve military supremacy will not be allowed to materialise either on earth

or in the cosmos," he said.

The tough speech appeared to strike a new urgency in the Soviet Union's propaganda battle over Star Wars in advance of the Geneva arms talks.

Mr Gromyko said his conversations in Madrid had centred on "how to prevent the militarisation of space and how to contain the arms race."

The Soviet Foreign Minister failed, however, to elicit direct Spanish support for Moscow's anti-Star Wars platform. Sr Moran made clear that Spain was studying the issue but had no intention of taking a stand at the moment.

Mr Gromyko, who returns to Moscow today, also failed to drive any wedge between Spain and the West over the NATO issue. Sr Moran, in his speech at the Foreign Ministry lunch, said that "for obvious reasons" Spain forms part of the West and "defends its values and way of life."

Spain's Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez favours remaining in Nato, although not as a member of the military command structure. He has promised to hold a referendum on the issue

Martial law restored in Bangladesh crackdown

By Sayed Kamaluddin in Dhaka

BANGLADESHI military leader

Lt-Gen Hossain Mohammad Ershad, yesterday banned all political activities and said he would hold a referendum on March 21 to seek a vote of confidence on his continuation as the country's President.

The country's six universities have been closed down indefinitely and a midnight to dawn curfew has been imposed in the capital. The curfew and other restrictions followed the President's announcement that he was reimposing martial law and was again setting up special tribunals and summary military courts.

Lt-Gen Ershad, who took power in a bloodless military coup in March 1982, denounced opposition parties which had threatened to boycott parliamentary elections planned for April 6 and said that "martial law would be applied with full force" until conditions were suitable.

Lt-Gen Ershad had recently relaxed the application of martial law, partially restored fundamental rights and released a number of convicted political prisoners in an apparent bid to create a "congenial atmosphere" for elections.

Since May last year the authorities shifted dates of parliamentary elections thrice in what they claimed was an effort to persuade the key opposition parties to participate. Yesterday Lt-Gen Ershad said that it was now clear that a referendum was the only way to ascertain public opinion, although he did not rule out the possibility of holding elections at a later date.

Farm compromise

By Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate agriculture committee, has responded to the Reagan Administration's radical farm Bill with a compromise plan providing for more generous price supports for farmers, our Foreign Staff report.

Confusion surrounds key decisions on the budget and enlargements, Quentin Peel reports

Fog descends on EEC's deliberations

A DENSE fog descended on Europe this week. It not only wreaked havoc with airline schedules and road transport. It also left considerable chaos and confusion in the elevated councils of the European Community.

As EEC foreign ministers

were left stranded in various airports on their way to an extraordinary meeting in Brussels, or delayed for hours in their efforts to attend, the deals they were supposed to agree on—bringing Spain and Portugal into the Community, on financing the hole in their budget plans, and on buying off Greece with a generous package of spending programmes — were left in a similar state of disarray.

There was confusion yesterday over just what had and had not been agreed in the talks that did take place, both among the ministers in Brussels, and at the Franco-German summit meeting in Paris.

In turn, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, never left London to attend the talks and spell out his own position on an issue which affects Britain most closely, because of its promised Ecu Iban (£570m) cut in budget contri-

butions this year.

Sig. Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, and current president of the EEC Council of Ministers, was held up on his way from Rome, although he was only arrived an hour later than planned.

As for Mr Theodor Pangalos, the Greek Minister responsible for European affairs, he was stranded in Lyons on his way to Brussels, where he was supposed to spell out his government's position on the disputed question of spending plans for the Mediterranean regions.

In Paris, the French and West German leaders put together a deal on the budget which would allow more money to be paid over by the member states in 1985, provided the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal is first agreed. Equally, it seems to suggest that no money will be forthcoming until later if the negotiations drag on, and

accession is not formally ratified by all concerned until next year.

Yet when the deal was presented in Brussels by Herr Jurgen Runkel, the West German Minister of State, it was greeted by his French counterpart, Mme Catherine Lallemielle, as "ill-starred." Only as the talks progressed did she imply it might be acceptable to her government.

But the package was regarded with some consternation by Britain whose officials felt the plan as a new attempt to link the reduction in Britain's budget contributions to the ultimate enlargement of the Community.

Yesterday all sides were at pains to explain their positions, without casting much more light on the situation.

The French view was that the whole plan had to be viewed in an optimistic light, assuming that the Ten would all finalise

the talks with Spain and Portugal by the end of March, and hence be able to ratify the accession treaties and the decision to increase their budget contributions before the end of the year.

The British stressed that their Ecu Iban cut in contributions had been promised in 1985, and they would not approve any plan which failed to meet that deadline.

As for the West Germans, they admit that delayed enlargement would mean that no money would be available for the British reduction before the end of the year.

The Foreign Ministers and their alternatives gave up their talks on Thursday night in some confusion, and now it is up to their national officials to clear the mists.

Even if they manage to cope with the budgetary problem, however, they still have to cope with Greece and the Mediterranean question.

Kyprianou spurns call to resign

By Andreas Hadjipapas in Nicosia

CYPRUS'S political and constitutional crisis deepened further yesterday as President Spyros Kyprianou turned down demands from two opposition parties that he should resign and call early presidential elections.

In a radio and television broadcast last night Mr Kyprianou dismissed charges that he did not want a Cypriot government and said he would stay in office to pursue his efforts for "a just and viable" solution to the divided island problems.

Business sectors yesterday reacted cautiously to Mr Sourrouille's speech, weighing his apparent pragmatism and moderation against his deliberate vagueness on the two politically sensitive issues of wages and exchange policy.

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Ortega and Shultz plan meeting in Montevideo

meeting as each waited for the other to extend a formal invitation.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said the impasse was broken when Nicaragua formally requested the meeting through diplomatic channels.

David Weisberg, "adds" from Montevideo, "Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, Sr. Miguel D'Escoto, said: 'We bank on this occasion to begin to talk about the normalisation of our bilateral relations with the United States.' Bilateral talks between the two countries that got started last June in Manzanillo, Mexico, have been suspended by the Reagan Administration since January."

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German officials meet in Bonn

The first high-level meeting took place yesterday between East and West German officials since Herr Erich Honecker, East Germany's leader, cancelled a planned visit to West Germany last September at the request of the Soviet Union, writes Leanne Collett in Berlin.

Herr Hermann Axen, East Germany's influential Politburo secretary in charge of international relations, met West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and Herr Wolfgang Schaeuble, the head of the West German Federal Chancellery in Bonn.

Herr Genscher and Herr Axen said the two states could make an important contribution to improving East-West relations.

Luxembourg TV satellite scheme excludes Coronet

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

LUXEMBOURG yesterday set up a private sector company to distribute programmes via its own satellite to cable television networks all over Europe.

The company, European Satellite Corporation (SES), has the backing of Belgian, West German and Luxembourg Banks and Swedish and Danish companies.

The company excludes Dr Clay Whitehead, former director of the U.S. Office of Telecommunications Policy who first suggested the concept of a Luxembourg satellite financed by private capital.

Mr Pierre Werner, the former Luxembourg Prime Minister,

signed an agreement with Dr Whitehead last May. Dr Whitehead's company, Coronet, was to operate a satellite from Luxembourg's orbital position although Luxembourg financial institutions would dominate the holding company.

The new Luxembourg Government of Mr Jacques Santer felt the Coronet project was insufficiently European and had only attracted one or two investors so far.

The aim would be to launch a satellite next year. The Luxembourg state savings and investment banks will each take 10 per cent of the project and have one third of the voting shares.

Mr Shultz and Sr Ortega both expressed interest in face-to-face discussions on the initiative announced Wednesday by Nicaragua, but there was a delay in arranging the voting shares.

The two officials are here heading their respective delegations for the inauguration of Uruguay's President, Julio Sanguineti, after nearly 12 years of military rule.

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Behind this latest extraordinary investor interest lay published reports, one by Nikkei Biotech, a U.S.-Japanese

magazine operating in Tokyo, the other by Nature, of the UK, whose article was subsequently given banner headlines on Thursday by the London evening Press.

The thrust of the Japanese article was that Asahi Chemical and its U.S. research associate, the Beckman Laboratories of the City of Hope, California, would be the first to proceed with clinical trials of human TNF (tumour necrosis factor).

Though this was far from clear yesterday, Asahi Chemical may also be the first to file product patents for human TNF, ahead of its apparent principal competitor, Genentech of the U.S. and Fujisawa of Japan.

Ms Sue Thompson, Jardine Fleming's pharmaceuticals specialist in Tokyo, warned that the actual situation was extremely confusing involving, as it did, a secret and highly competitive research operation.

She also noted that though TNF research on rabbits had looked promising—and human TNF is said to be 10 times as powerful—similar, yet still unfulfilled, hopes had been held out in the past for alpha interferon.

Of the five groups known to be deeply involved in TNF research, four involve Japanese concerns—Asahi Chemical (with City of Hope), Fujisawa (with Genentech), Daikinpon and Santory (with BASF and Biogen); Celts of the U.S. is also working on it.

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Peel report
ns

Jaguar chairman leaves after eight months

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

MR HAMISH ORR-EWING has stepped down after only eight months as chairman of the Jaguar car company.

He is to be replaced by Mr John Egan, chief executive and the man given much of the credit for the revival of Jaguar in recent years.

The company attempted yesterday to play down the problems which have obviously arisen between Mr Orr-Ewing and Mr Egan by issuing a statement quoting Mr Orr-Ewing as saying: "I am now confident Jaguar has settled down well as a public company that its executive management is fully capable of controlling its destiny."

Mr Orr-Ewing will remain a non-executive director of the company.

The Jaguar statement, to which the company refused to all, quoted Mr Egan as stating: "Hamish has guided Jaguar through the difficult period immediately following our privatisation. We are all extremely grateful for his contribution."

Alliance sets out its strategy for Budget

BY MARGARET VAN HATTEM, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A £4bn public spending programme aimed at cutting unemployment to 2.7m by the end of this year while holding inflation to 6.9 per cent is the main feature of the Budget strategy published yesterday by the Liberal/SDP Alliance.

The package includes a £1bn boost for public sector capital spending (£300m on housing, £200m on roads); a 1 per cent cut in employers' National Insurance contributions, costing £45m; additional payments for low income families; aid to long-term unemployed; and an expansion of community jobs programmes and youth training programmes.

These would add an estimated £1.9bn to the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement as well as using up the £1.5bn which the Government had hoped to set aside for tax cuts.

The inflationary effects would be curbed by a "steady monetary policy" (with the possibility of rising interest rates to support the sterling exchange rate within the European Monetary System), and a tight rein on wage increases in the private and public sectors, with a 12 month pay freeze if necessary. Inflation would, however, remain slightly higher than projected levels.

Introducing the package yesterday, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, emphasised the capital spending element which he presented as a "superior brand of the 'household economics' advocated by the Prime Minister."

"Most people in their own households recognise that they must invest in maintenance," he said. "This government has not invested in the maintenance of Britain — they have been bad householders."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, said the package showed that the Alliance had the will to reduce unemployment in a credible way without triggering high inflation. It would bring unemployment 500,000 below projected levels by the end of this year.

The Alliance Budget paper says the Government's budgetary and monetary policies have been "unnecessarily restrictive."

Business Expansion Scheme

SMITHFIELD DEVELOPMENTS PLC

Formed to refurbish and build office and light industrial accommodation for 'owner occupation' by small businesses in and near the City of London.

Particular emphasis on Smithfield where management has recent development experience.

Offer for Subscription
of up to 2,000,000 ordinary shares
at £1 per share, payable in full on
application, on or before Friday
15th March 1985.

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Brendan Keenan on the Newry terrorists who struck out with a pipe stuck in a concrete block Desperate for arms, the IRA resorts to backyard weaponry

IT IS hard to imagine anything cruder than the IRA mortar shells which killed nine RUC officers in Newry police station on Thursday evening.

These home-made devices are put together in backyard garages and machine shops and fired from pieces of piping embedded in concrete on the backs of lorries.

As Thursday proved, it is also difficult to imagine a terrorist weapon more dangerous and more frightening. They have been used sporadically since the early 1970s but never before with such devastating results.

With hindsight, it can be said that the security forces and civilian population have been lucky over the years. The mortars are wildly inaccurate and most previous attacks have missed their targets.

This makes them particularly dangerous to civilians near security installations. On one notorious occasion a mortar landed in a school playground but failed to explode.

The Newry attack was similarly wild. Some of the shells at least six were fired ended up outside the walls of the fortified station; others failed to explode and were dealt with yesterday by army experts.

But at least one struck a Portakabin used as the station canteen and it was there that the casualties — the worst the RUC has suffered in a single incident — took place.

The attack was a replica of many others, apart from the still argument about it, the



A crude mortar shell reduced Newry Police Station to a pile of rubble, killing nine people.

scale of the carnage. A lorry hijacked in South Armagh, a few miles from Newry, was seized recently and was IRA funds.

The capture of seven tonnes of arms from a trolley off the Irish coast last year was an even more bitter blow. It meant the loss of months, if not years, of planning and £2m to £5m in funds.

The weapons, especially the heavy machine guns, were badly needed to pursue the IRA's present strategy.

That strategy is to avoid civilian casualties where possible in favour of attacks on security forces or political targets. These should preferably be what is known in Ulster's hard-bitten jargon as "spectaculars," involving multiple deaths or some other feature to grab

newspaper headlines.

The bombing of the British Cabinet at the Grand Hotel in Brighton was the ultimate "spectacular" from the IRA's point of view.

Newry now joins the list and, ironically, just three miles away from the bombed police station is the spot where 18 paratroopers died in 1981 in the Army's worst single incident in Northern Ireland.

The new IRA tactics are meant to maximise electoral support for their political movement. Sinn Fein, but they have led to some odd ironies.

Northern Ireland life is more normal than at any time since the troubles began, with Belfast's city centre enjoying a minor property boom. But

MR DOUGLAS HURD, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday visited the Newry police station where nine officers died in an IRA mortar attack on Thursday night.

Several men, arrested in raids in the Newry and South Armagh area during the day, were questioned about serious terrorist crimes. The RUC is expected to meet Mr Hurd over the weekend.

Mr Hurd said security chiefs had told him there was no new expertise used in the IRA attack. It was a stroke of good fortune for the terrorists that one mortar bomb had fallen on a Portakabin used as a police canteen.

He added: "The terrorists are wrong to think that such attacks weaken the Government's determination to pursue a robust security policy. They only strengthen that determination."

John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, has cut short a lecture tour of the U.S. to return to the province. He is expected to meet Mr Hurd over the weekend.

Mr Alan Wright, chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation, who lost a niece in the attack, said the deaths hurt every member of the force and was bound to lower morale.

cent higher than in El Salvador and four times higher than in U.S. cities like New York.

The number of deaths in the Newry attacks means that many members of the 10,000-strong force will have known one or more of the victims.

But the force has learned to cope, although the strain shows in higher-than-average incidences of drinking problems, marital difficulties and even — according to some statistics — suicides among members and their relatives.

The political atmosphere will be poisoned even further. The years of killing have opened a gulf of misunderstanding between the communities which may be impossible to bridge.

12.75%

On 13th March, the interest rate on National Savings Deposit Bonds jumps to 12.75% p.a., credited in full.

These bonds are designed specifically for investors wanting to build up capital.

New minimum.

The minimum you can buy is going down to £100 with effect from 13th March. Until then the minimum is £250. You buy in multiples of £50 and there is no change in the maximum holding of £50,000.

Give us three months' notice and all or part of your bond can be repaid. Hold on to your bond for just one year and it earns the full rate of interest.

Even if you need to withdraw your money within the first year, you'll still earn interest at half the published rate.

It's spring time for Deposit Bond investors.

Competitive interest.

Interest is calculated on a daily basis, and is credited in full on the anniversary of your deposit. It is subject to tax if you are a taxpayer.

From time to time the interest may vary, so the rate can be kept competitive. We give six weeks' notice of any change.

How to buy.

Almost anyone can invest in Deposit Bonds — personal investors, including children and two or more people jointly, and trustees, companies, clubs, voluntary bodies, etc.

As a personal investor, you can buy in two ways. You can send the application form below direct to the Deposit Bond Office — make out your cheque (not cash) to "National Savings".

Or you can ask for a combined prospectus/application form at a post office and make your deposit there. If you pay by cheque, make it out to "The Post Office".

Trustees, companies, voluntary bodies, etc, should use the application form below.

Interest will be earned from the day you buy your bond at the Post Office or, if you use the application form below, the day your deposits are received at the Deposit Bond Office.



DEPOSIT BOND

12%

DESCRIPTION

1. National Savings Deposit Bonds ("bonds") are Government securities issued by the Treasury under the National Loans Act 1968. They are registered on the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the Statutory Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force, so far as these are applicable. The principal of and interest on bonds are a charge on the National Loans Fund.

PURCHASE

2.1 Subject to a minimum purchase of £250 (see paragraph 3) a purchase may be made in multiples of £50. The date of purchase will for all purposes be the date payment is received, with a completed application form, at the National Savings Deposit Bond Office, a Post Office transacting National Savings Bank business or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

2.2 A certificate will be issued in respect of each purchase. This certificate will show the value of the bond and its date of purchase. This certificate will be replaced on each anniversary of the date of purchase, and on part repayment in accordance with paragraph 5.2, by a new certificate showing the updated value of the bond, including capitalised interest.

2.3 Payments will be made by crossed warrant sent by post. For the purpose of determining the amount payable in respect of a bond the date of repayment will be the date on which the application is received in the National Savings Deposit Bond Office.

2.4 Application may be made in accordance with paragraph 5.1 for repayment of part of a bond, including capitalised interest, but the amount to be repaid must not be less than £50, or such other figure as the Treasury may determine from time to time giving notice. The balance of the bond remaining after repayment, excluding interest, which has not been capitalised, must be not less than the minimum holding limit which was in force at the date of application. Where part of a bond has been repaid a new certificate will be issued and the remaining balance will be treated as having the same date of purchase as the original bond, including capitalised interest.

2.5 Payments will be made by crossed warrant sent by post. For the purpose of determining the amount payable in respect of a bond the date of repayment will be the date on which the warrant is sent.

2.6 No payment will be made in respect of a bond held by a minor under the age of seven years either solely or jointly with any other person, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

TRANSFERS

2.7 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. The Director of Savings will, for example, normally give consent in the case of devolution of bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

NOTICE

2.8 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 and 8 in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazette or in any manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazette, it will be as soon as reasonably possible thereafter be recorded by them.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS

2.9 Each bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the purchase date. Thereafter, interest will continue to be payable in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 and 4.3 until the redemption of the bond. The bond may be redeemed either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any date thereafter in either case upon the giving of six months' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the holder before redemption, at his last recorded address, informing him of the date of redemption.

NATIONAL SAVINGS DEPOSIT BOND — Application to purchase

To the Deposit Bond Office, Dept. FT11, National Savings, Glasgow G56 1SR.

Note: Minimum purchase is £250.

Minimum holding £50,000.

All purchases must be in multiples of £50.

Please use CAPITAL letters.

Surname(s) _____ First name(s) _____ Maiden/Married _____

Address(es) _____ Postcode _____

Note: If the bond is to be held jointly the names and address of all holders should be given. The Investment Certificate and all correspondence will normally be sent to the first named holder, unless 7 years old.

NAME AND ADDRESS TO WHICH DEPOSIT BOND SHOULD BESENT (Complete only if different from first address above)

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

If you already have a National Savings Deposit Bond? YES NO (Please tick as appropriate)

If YES please enter the Deposit Bond number shown on any of your Investment Certificates.

Date _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Note: If the bond is to be held jointly all the parties must sign above.

Persons signing for children under 7 should also state relationship here.

UK NEWS

BBC advised to combine its sales ventures

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

THE BBC should bring all its commercial operations under a single organisation and management structure, an independent study argues.

Marketing Improvements, the largest independent marketing consultants in the UK, was asked by the BBC to look at its commercial operations to see whether they could be more efficient and profitable.

The report delivered to the BBC two weeks ago recommends radical changes.

The Corporation's commercial activities come under the responsibility of different BBC directorships. Together, it is believed their annual turnover exceeds £100m a year.

The largest in terms of turnover is BBC Publications, publisher of the Radio Times and the Listener, with a £53m turnover in the last financial year. Next is BBC Enterprises with a turnover of £31.4m last year, responsible for programme sales, records, videos and the BBC microcomputer.

There is also the Hulton Picture Library, English by Radio and Television on the External Services, BBC Data, which is involved in information data banks, a micrographics operation and radio transcription service, which sells discs of radio programmes to foreign broadcasters.

Marketing Improvements suggests that although activities are run by skilled teams they need a more co-ordinated market focus.

The implication of the main recommendation is that a unified commercial BBC organisation would be run by someone with extensive commercial experience, probably from outside the BBC.

Thames TV finance head quits

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

MR IAN SCOTT, director of finance at Thames Television, has left the company. Staff at Thames were told this week that Mr Scott offered his resignation and had left.

Thames refused to say yesterday why Mr Scott, who had been director of finance at the largest ITV station for the past

The report contains options involving less drastic integration.

Marketing Improvements, which has carried out consultancy work for major companies in food, banking and the motor industry, also suggests that the corporation's commercial activities should be targeted more sharply.

The attempt to make the best possible commercial use of resources is politically important as the BBC awaits the outcome of a claim for a £65 licence fee—a rise of 41 per cent.

But commercial operation, however efficient, are unlikely to have more than a small impact on the corporation's licence fee.

• The BBC's new soap opera, Eastenders, has helped to boost the BBC share of the television audience. The first episode was watched by 17.35m. The only ITV programme to beat that was Coronation Street.

Programmes such as Eastenders, The Two Ronnies (17.9m), and Miss Marple boosted the BBC share of the audience to 45.8 per cent in the week ending February 24. This is a big improvement on many recent weeks when the BBC audience share has been squeezed down to 40 per cent.

Mr Brian Wenham, BBC Television's director of programmes, said yesterday that the new pattern at 7pm—Eastenders twice a week and Terry Wogan three times—gave a strong foundation to weekday evenings.

Viewing figures for Panorama and the Nine o'Clock News had also increased.

Further issue of index-linked gilts

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday sought to revive its debt-funding programme by announcing the issue of a further £300m worth of existing index-linked gilts which will be offered for sale on Monday.

A successor has not yet been appointed but Mr Derek Hunt, deputy director of finance, will carry out Mr Scott's duties for the present.

He said the contract was won

10 years, had left but indicated that it was for personal and family reasons.

Mr Scott offered his resignation 10 days ago.

A successor has not yet been appointed but Mr Derek Hunt, deputy director of finance, will carry out Mr Scott's duties for the present.

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Bank of Scotland

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT Account Details

Account No	00428407
Balance	125.84
Today's items	75.43
Fund transfers pending	65.00
Keycard withdrawls pending	-30.00
Interest accrued	-1.12
Charges accrued	-0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

Key: 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland

More Bill Payments

Mandate No	104
Reference	6023717302917
Account to be debited on	04th February 1985
Amount	£174.26
Bill paid by	06th February 1985
No changes after	30th January 1985

Key: 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-Account Transfers

From	Current Account No 00428407
Grant J A Pers Acc	
Home Banking Centre	
To	Investment Account No 02037184
Grant J A	
Home Banking Centre	
Amount	£100.00

Key: 1 To send 2 To cancel 3 Change Accounts 4 Change Amount 5 Change both

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland

STANDING ORDER DETAILS

Upland Electricity	Monthly	30Jan85	30Nov85	32.40
British Gas	Monthly	06Feb85	06Sep85	31.15
Midshires Council	Monthly	01Feb85	01Mar85	57.81
General Life Ass	Monthly	31Jan85	N.A.	22.45
United Auto Ins	Quarterly	15Mar85	15Jun85	26.95

Key: 1 To add more Mandates
2 To cancel existing Mandates

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

Bank of Scotland

A/C No 00428407 Statement

Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	45.00	226.97
11Jan85	P B Dtl	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	-27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90325603	100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	-29.98	125.84

Key: 1 To add items
2 To cancel items

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management

148 High St Southampton	OP	
ACCOUNT: 00101407 CURRENCY: STG		
Debtors position on 17 Jan 1985		
Debtors exceeding overdraft limit on 17 Jan 1985		
14Jan1985 - 1,456	504	1,733
15Jan1985 - 389	750	2,094
16Jan1985 - 0	1,048	1,117
17Jan1985 - 0	2,884	2,094
	327	2,094

Key: 1 To add items
2 To cancel items

CASH MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESSES.

New from Bank of Scotland. Home Banking throughout the UK.



Bank of Scotland is pleased to announce the latest in a long line of "firsts".

As the first bank in the UK to launch comprehensive home banking nationally, we have turned science fiction into fact. Now you can manage your money from the comfort of your own armchair.

It's banking at your fingertips.

With Bank of Scotland's Home Banking service, direct access to your accounts is-literally-at your fingertips.

No more queues, no more delays, no more confusion. You can move your money around, check any aspect of your accounts and pay your bills SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, ALMOST ROUND THE CLOCK.

You can operate a Current Account, a Budget Account, a Money Market Cheque Account or obtain up to the minute details of your personal loans.

In fact, most Bank services can now be carried out in YOUR own good time!

Monitor the ebb and flow of your Current Account.

Whenever you like-even on a Sunday evening-you can check your balance, see what transactions you have pending, any bank charges or interest accrued and details of standing orders. You can order a cheque book and statement, and see how much cash you can obtain at any given moment. And that's just for starters.

Pay bills just by lifting a finger.

Forget about queuing or posting cheques. Now you can pay key bills via Home Banking. Simply tell us how much you want to pay-and when-and we'll do the rest.

Move your money where the interest is.

Our Home & Office Banking Investment Account-specially developed for Home Banking-makes this easy.

Whenever you have spare cash in your Current Account, you can transfer it into our new Investment Account simply by entering the details on your screen. Your money will immediately start to earn interest.

When you need to use it, even if only a few days later, you can transfer it back to your Current Account just as easily.

In this way you can make your money work for you, and still have it the moment you need it.

The office user can bank on it too.

With this service, Office Banking becomes a reality for many businesses.

They will find the service immensely time-saving and cost effective in keeping track of cashflow and verifying transactions through their bank accounts, as well as earning really useful interest on spare funds.

All these facilities are available now to businesses for payments which can be authorised by a single signature and developments currently in hand will provide for multiple authorisation in the future.

Open up the world of Prestel.*

Bank of Scotland's Home Banking is brought to you through Prestel, the extensive Viewdata system from British Telecom. That means you also have access to thousands of Prestel pages, such as message services including Telex, teleshopping, telebooking, news, weather reports and much more.

A whole new world of communications and information is suddenly there for you to use in your own home.

Simple to use yet completely secure.

Home Banking is so easy to operate a child could do it. However, our security precautions are such that no child (or adult!) can-unless you choose to let them, of course.

To use the system you must first enter your Prestel security codes followed by your Bank of Scotland codes which only you will know. These can be changed by you at anytime.

Discover what Home Banking can mean to you.

This is your opportunity to be one of the first to benefit from the technology of the future. And remember, you can use it anywhere in the UK.

There's a bonus if you decide Home Banking is for you. You can take advantage of our special introductory offer. Initial subscribers will be able to buy-at a very special price-our Prestel adaptor, which links your TV and telephone into the system.

All the details of this offer - and indeed of every aspect of Home Banking from Bank of Scotland - are in our comprehensive information pack.

FREEPOST the coupon and find out how tomorrow's money management can be at your fingertips today!

*Prestel is a registered trade mark of British Telecommunications plc.



Post to: Home Banking Centre, Bank of Scotland,
FREEPOST, Edinburgh, EH1 0AA.

I would like to know all about Home Banking from Bank of Scotland.
Please send me your information pack.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

UK NEWS-LABOUR

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	14 1/2%	C. Hoare & Co.	14 1/2%
Allied Irish Bank	14 1/2%	Hong Kong & Shanghai	14 1/2%
Henry Ansbacher	14 1/2%	Johnson Matthey Brks.	14 1/2%
Amro Bank	14 1/2%	Lloyds Bank	14 1/2%
Armenia Trust Ltd.	14 1/2%	Edward Manson & Co.	15 1/2%
Associates Cap. Corp.	14 1/2%	Meghraj & Sons Ltd.	14 1/2%
Banco de Bilbao	14 1/2%	Midland Bank	14 1/2%
Bank Hapoalim	14 1/2%	Morgan Grenfell	14 1/2%
BCI	14 1/2%	Mount Credit Corp. Ltd.	14 1/2%
Bank of Ireland	14 1/2%	National Bk. of Corp. Ltd.	14 1/2%
Bank of Cyprus	14 1/2%	National Girobank	14 1/2%
Bank of India	14 1/2%	National Westminster	14 1/2%
Bank of Scotland	14 1/2%	Northern Bank Ltd.	14 1/2%
Banque Belge Ltd.	14 1/2%	Norwich Gen. Trust	14 1/2%
Barclays' Bank	14 1/2%	People's Tst. & Sv. Ltd.	15 1/2%
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	14 1/2%	Provincial Trust	15 1/2%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	14 1/2%	R. Raphael & Sons	14 1/2%
Brown Shirley	14 1/2%	P. S. Reeson	14 1/2%
CL Bank Nederland	14 1/2%	Roxburgh Guarantees	14 1/2%
Canada Perm't Trust	14 1/2%	Royal Bank of Scotland	14 1/2%
Cayzer Ltd.	14 1/2%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	14 1/2%
Cedar Holdings	14 1/2%	Saxford Chartered	14 1/2%
■ Charterhouse Japhet	14 1/2%	T.C.B.	14 1/2%
Chouarlieros	14 1/2%	Trede Dev. Bank	14 1/2%
Chitbank NA	14 1/2%	Trustee Savings Bank	14 1/2%
Citibank Savings	14 1/2%	United Bank of Kuwait	14 1/2%
Glyndebold Bank	14 1/2%	United Mirrabi Bank	14 1/2%
Conn. Eq. N. East	14 1/2%	Westpac Banking Corp.	14 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	14 1/2%	Whiteaway Laidlaw	14 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	14 1/2%	Williams & Glynn's	14 1/2%
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	14 1/2%	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	14 1/2%
Dunbar & Co. Ltd.	14 1/2%	Yorksire Bk.	14 1/2%
Duncan Lawrie	14 1/2%	■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee	14 1/2%
E. T. Trust	14 1/2%	7-day deposits 11% 1 month	11 1/2%
Exeter Trust Ltd.	14 1/2%	7-day deposits 12 months	12 1/2%
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14 1/2%	£10,000 11% £10,000 up to £50,000	11 1/2%
Robert Fleming & Co.	14 1/2%	£50,000 over 12%	12 1/2%
Robert Fraser & Ptns	14 1/2%	£100,000 over 12%	12 1/2%
Grindlays' Bank	14 1/2%	£100,000 over 12%	12 1/2%
Guinness Mahon	14 1/2%	£100,000 over 12%	12 1/2%
Hanover's Bank	14 1/2%	Montagu best rate	11 1/2%
Heritable Geo. Trust	14 1/2%	Montagu deposits 11%	11 1/2%
Hill Samuel	14 1/2%	Demand deposits 11%	11 1/2%
		See Province Trust Ltd.	

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Joseph 'inflaming NUT'

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Education Secretary, was accused last night of "pouring more and more oil on the flames" of the teachers' pay dispute.

The charge came from Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, after Sir Keith warned in a BBC radio interview that teachers' strike action might be jeopardising their chances of getting any money at all from the Government for a new contract.

In other developments yesterday, the unions responded to the employers' offer of conciliation with a seven-point list of demands for clarification.

for accepting a new contract would be payable only over a long period. I think two years would be a bit optimistic."

Meanwhile, the Minister was also exchanging tart words over the teachers' dispute with Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman. He told Mr Radice that his earlier letter accusing Sir Keith of scuppering hopes of a settlement was "quite preposterous."

In other developments yesterday, the unions responded to the employers' offer of conciliation with a seven-point list of demands for clarification.

The unions' chief negotiator said he was satisfied that the offer met their objectives. The move to a September settlement would be helpful in that the manual workers could come at the end of one pay round, rather than at the start of the next.

He said: "In many ways it is a respectable deal, but it leaves a lot of unfinished business even if our members accept it."

Mr Brian Rusbridge, employers' side secretary of both the manual workers negotiating committee and the teachers' committee, warned that the teachers could not expect a percentage rise similar to that offered to the manual workers. The teachers have rejected 4 per cent and arbitration.

Philip Bassett catalogues the rapid crumbling of the miners' strike

A day of reckoning at the pitheads

IN THE END the hard areas cracked. After a year when the miners stood solid, in Yorkshire and particularly in South Wales, this week the trickle of strikers returning to work turned into a flood.

Yesterday's extraordinary figures—1,656 back on a Friday, according to the National Coal Board—simply capped an extraordinary week in which more than 5 per cent of the National Union of Mineworkers' entire membership, as listed by the board, came back to work.

The NCB figures for Friday bring the number of NUM members working to more than 96,000, or about 32 per cent of the total NCB-listed membership of the union of 186,064.

This highest Friday figure for the 12 months of the strike confirmed the trend of the week. In Yorkshire, as many as 1,014 miners went back yesterday—by far the highest Friday figure, and indeed the second-highest daily figure the area has yet seen (the highest

was last Monday, when 1,162

accounts for 23 per cent of the area's NUM members).

In South Wales a further 87 miners went back yesterday, bringing the proportion now working there to 8 per cent. This is still the lowest for any coalfield—but, two weeks ago the proportion was less than 2 per cent.

In the north-east, just under 49 per cent of NUM members are now back at work, including the 216 who returned yesterday—made up of 52 at Wearmouth colliery, 43 at Eppleton and 36 at Dawdon.

Scotland is also closer to the half-way mark, says the NCB, with 108 miners returning there yesterday, to bring the total working to 45.75 per cent.

Figures for other NCB areas, according to the board, were: North Derbyshire, 11.9; Back yesterday; (88 per cent work); Nottinghamshire, 11 back (96 per cent); Western area, 7.8 back (21 per cent); and South Midlands, three back (81 per cent).

Councils win school meals wage cut case

By Raymond Hughes, Law Courts Correspondent

THERE WAS "no shred of evidence" that Hertfordshire and East Sussex county councils acted unreasonably when they sacked school meals staff and offered them re-engagement on worse terms than those in a national agreement, Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The councils, whose spending has been limited by the Government, had been faced with the need to make difficult and disagreeable decisions. It was clear they had examined the problem in detail, Sir John said.

He was giving his reasons for dismissing appeals by the National Union of Public Employees against the High Court's refusal last April to hold that the councils had exceeded their legal powers.

NUPE had argued that the councils had not taken enough account of the adverse effects of not sticking to national agreements. Sir John agreed.

NGA faces a clash over jobs policy

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

THE National Graphical Association could face another battle with the Government's employment legislation after the granting yesterday of an injunction against the union to the Wolverhampton Express and Star.

In a hearing in chambers at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Justice Hodgson granted the injunction against the NGA and Mr Tom Lowe, its West Midlands branch secretary, because of the union's failure to hold a ballot before instructing members not to accept direct input in the paper's advertising department.

More than 70 NGA members at the Express and Star have been suspended for a week—with a similar number at the Shropshire Star—in the row over new technology and collective bargaining rights.

Although all editions of both papers are appearing, the management has had to cut back heavily on page changes.

The judge gave the NGA until Friday to stop "inciting" members to breach their contracts of employment at the Express and Star, the Shropshire Star, and Precision Engineering Ltd.

Pit strike may lead to 6% rise in electricity prices

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

ELECTRICITY PRICES may rise by about 6 per cent to help cover the 1985-86 knock-on costs of the miners' strike, according to the City stockbrokers Slingsby and Cope, whose latest estimate of the strike's economic impact puts its cost to the Government at more than £5bn.

Mr Gavyn Davies, the stockbrokers' chief economist, says in his report that full recovery of the costs incurred would not be practicable through electricity prices. To recoup the full accounting costs for the electricity industry alone would require a price increase of at least 20 per cent, which would add 0.6 per cent to this year's retail price index.

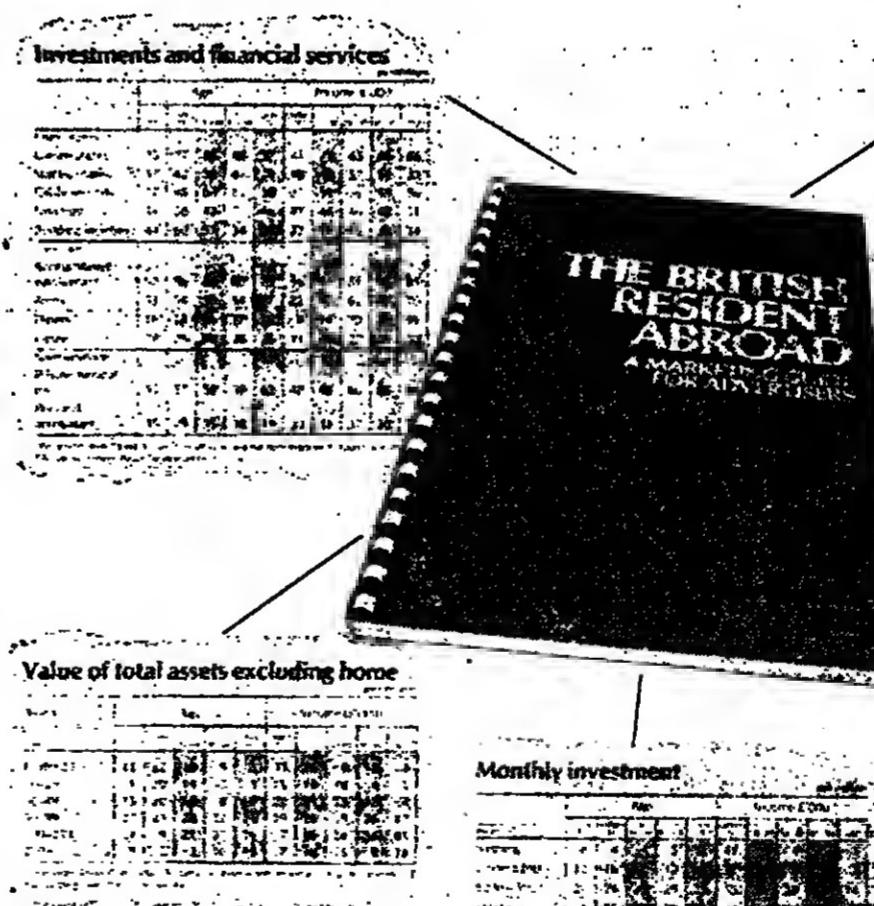
But a surcharge to cover the "knock-on" costs "seems possible," Mr Davies says.

Costs which will be incurred when the strike ends, the report says, total £600m-£700m, made up of repairs to damaged pits (£100m-£200m); a catch-up on the industry's investment programme (£100m); and rebuilding coal stocks, by perhaps 8m-10m tonnes (£400m).

More wages are being paid to returning miners, but output has not yet increased correspondingly.

Finally, the report says that the total loss to GNP is about 2 per cent, while the balance of payments has suffered by more than £2.5bn.

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We thought we should take a closer look and with MORI's help, that's just what we did.

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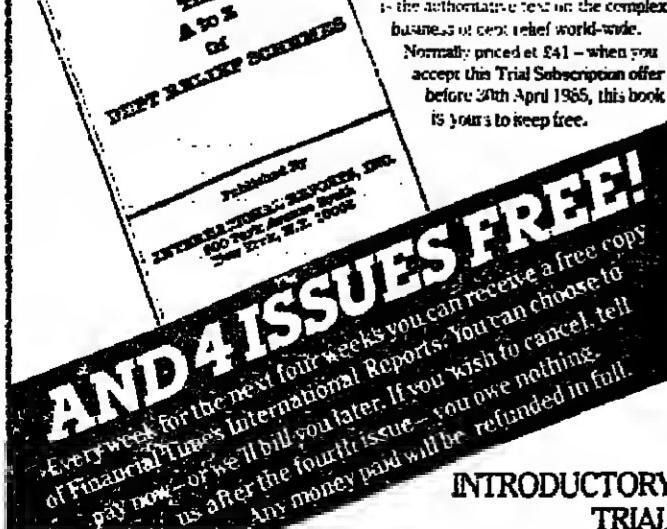
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WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Dollar debacle hits bonds

NEW YORK

TERRY DODSWORTH

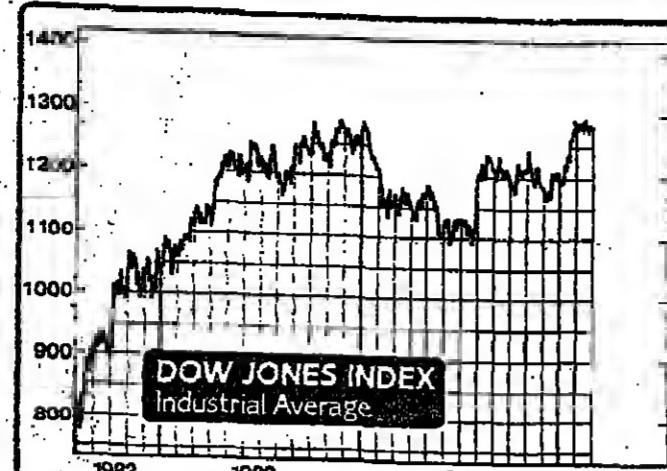
IT IS not often that the U.S. equity market finds itself in a direct struggle with the far-flung world of foreign exchange, but this was one of those weeks. The wild gyrations of the dollar, attacked in force by the combined ranks of the European central banks, has fed dramatically into the U.S. credit markets, forcing up interest rates sharply. Understandably, equities have simply not been able to escape what was happening.

For bonds as well, this process of cause and effect was also somewhat unusual. Until very recently, the Wall Street consensus was that the dollar was being held up very substantially by the high yields available on U.S. debt instruments. The escalating demands of the U.S. treasury was combining with new heavy requirements of the corporate sector to keep the cost of funds high by historic standards—and foreigners were buying the dollar to cash in on the returns available in the U.S.

But this argument was turned upside down in the course of the dollar debacle this week.

It all started yet again with Mr. Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, appearing at another committee meeting down in Washington in a series of oblique remarks. He eventually convinced Wall Street that he would like to intervene to push the dollar even stronger central bank in-tow. Analysts interpreted this to mean that he would also like to tighten credit conditions in the U.S. The belief is that, after its more relaxed monetary posture late last year, the Fed would like to rein-in credit growth, but has been worried that any moves to push interest rates higher would also send the dollar up to unacceptable levels.

From here, it was only a small step to the massive sell-off in the bond market which saw the Treasury long bond fall by two whole points on Wednesday, its biggest decline in 18 months. Investors had convinced themselves that the time being unequivocally up, and the 'ripple' effect spread throughout the credit markets. By Wednesday evening, the yield on the Treasury 30-year long bond had jumped from 7.0 per cent on the previous



Friday night to 1.02 per cent, while three-month bills were up from 8.38 per cent to 8.49 per cent. Only seven days before, the long bond yield had stood at 11.36 per cent.

In these conditions, equities did reasonably well to hold their own. In the Wednesday bloodbath, as both bond and currency dealers were swept along by panic rather than reasoned argument, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost only a little over five points, easily maintaining the equity market on the new plateau it established for itself in the January rally.

Some of this strength came from the perception that there are a great number of U.S. companies who will benefit from a decline in the dollar. Many of the big computer companies, led by IBM, the giant of the industry, have been complaining vociferously recently about the damaging impact the dollar will have on their profits from overseas sales in the first quarter. There are, equally, many other companies that would benefit from a reduction in competitive pressures in the domestic market, where they are under incessant assault from cheap imports.

These arguments, particularly on the export side, were reflected in the strength of the drug companies on Wednesday. Even technology stocks benefited to some degree, though they have been knocked around recently by other factors, including indications that sales will be depressed in the first quarter—Intel, the semiconductor manufacturer, said this week that its first-quarter revenues may be around 15 per cent lower than the final quarter of last year.

The area in which equities clearly are vulnerable in the present atmosphere is interest rates. Higher would also send the dollar up to unacceptable levels.

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FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

Two-home tax preparations

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

My wife and I own our own house (no mortgage) and I am due to retire in 1988 but this could be earlier depending on employment conditions.

In preparation for retirement my wife and I have found a bungalow some 7.5 miles from my present home. We are keen to purchase this, with help from a building society or bank, for our eventual retirement.

The bungalow is in a poor state of repair, it needs some structural alterations and repairs, a complete re-wire, installation of a central heating system, and complete redecoration inside and out. Some of this work we hope to do ourselves at weekends and holidays and some done by professionals. Of course when this work is completed we would not let or sell the bungalow.

If I go ahead and buy this bungalow and only live in it (working most weekends and holidays) will I be liable for capital gains tax when I eventually sell my present house? Would it be possible to get tax relief on a building society mortgage or bank loan for the necessary installation and work on the bungalow?

First the bad news: it is unlikely that you will get tax relief on the mortgage (or loan) interest.

Ask your tax inspector for a copy of the free explanatory booklet IR11 entitled "Tax Treatment of Interest Paid".

I am domiciled in Japan and have been a UK resident for more than nine years. A friend of mine, also domiciled in Japan who has been a UK resident for seven years says he has recently received a letter from the Inland Revenue, saying that they will change his domicile to the UK unless he clearly states for how many more years he intends to stay in the UK together with the possibility of that length. I have a small flat in the UK for my own use, but do not have a property in Japan. I can buy a small house in Japan, if it is better to do so

residence for CGT purposes, ever since the bungalow was purchased. This procedure is outlined in the free pamphlet IR11, entitled Capital Gains Tax—Owner-occupied Houses, which you could ask for at the same time as the IR11 booklet.

On the day of the contract for the sale of the house, in a few years' time, you and your wife should give notice that the bungalow is to be regarded as your main residence, for CGT purposes, with effect from the day two years beforehand. This notice will mean that you have no CGT to pay on the sale of the house, and that the potential CGT will upon any eventual sale of the bungalow will be kept to a minimum.

These notices for CGT purposes have no effect on the question of tax relief for the mortgage/loan interest.

Fortunately, the solicitors who act for you in the purchase of the bungalow will be able to guide you through the maze of arbitrary tax rules laid down by Parliament, over the years.

Of course, the Chancellor may sweep away some of the more time-consuming rules on March 15.

I am writing to seek your advice on a financial/legal problem. In 1978 my parents gave my sister £10,000 towards the purchase of a house. I believe this was given in two lump sums spread over two financial years.

During 1984 my sister moved house, sold her property and from the sale of the proceeds returned the £10,000 to my parents.

My father insists that he does not need the money, i.e. it was intended as a gift and not a loan, and has given me a cheque for £10,000 with the request that I invest it for the benefit of his grand-daughter, my sister's daughter, who is aged 13, without her knowledge on the basis that the principal plus accrued income is to be handed over when she reaches 21 years old.

Before the second anniversary of the contract for the purchase of the bungalow (not the completion date), you and your wife should give formal notice to the inspector that your present home (the house) is to be regarded as your main

residence for CGT purposes, ever since the bungalow was purchased. This procedure is outlined in the free pamphlet IR11, entitled Capital Gains Tax—Owner-occupied Houses, which you could ask for at the same time as the IR11 booklet.

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Before the second anniversary of the contract for the purchase of the bungalow (not the completion date), you and your wife should give formal notice to the inspector that your present home (the house) is to be regarded as your main

What about the tax position, i.e. with regards to my niece, and Capital Transfer Tax, if it is appropriate.

Before you pay the cheque into your bank, try to persuade your father to have a trust deed drawn up by his solicitor. Point out to him that (a) accumulated income may attract 45 per cent income tax under section 16 of the Finance Act 1973, unless it is clearly set down that your niece's interest in the £10,000 is absolute, rather than contingent, (b) a secret unwritten trust would be difficult to explain convincingly to the Inland Revenue, (c) if you and your father should die—in an accident, for example—during the next few years, the precise terms of an informal trust might be difficult or impossible for those left behind to establish, (d) the operation of the Trustee Act 1925 might frustrate your father's wishes if nothing is put in writing formally, and (e) your powers of investment ought to be defined, if they are not intended to be limited by the rather outdated statutory restrictions.

If your father demurs, you should seek a solicitor's advice before accepting what could well be a thankless and worrying trusteeship. Suppose, for example, that your father and your niece were killed in an accident, what should be done with the money (and how would you prove it)?

Fortunately, the solicitors who act for you in the purchase of the bungalow will be able to guide you through the maze of arbitrary tax rules laid down by Parliament, over the years.

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No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Can you tell me if a landlord has to pay for the tenant's plumbing such as the trouble we are all experiencing in this freezing weather. Incidentally we cannot get water from our own kitchen tap this week.

If the tenant is holding under a tenancy for a term of less than seven years the landlord is responsible for keeping the water supply pipes in working order.

Paying for access road

A large country house has a private access road half-a-mile long. Twenty-five years ago the owner sold plots of adjoining land for three houses. The owner granted a wheelchair right of way but no liability for repair costs.

The increased traffic on the old road means that major

repairs are now necessary.

The company has advised me that the cost will be £12,000 and my quarter share will be £3,000.

I propose to dispute this on the grounds of "proportionate to user" but I accept that I can be barricaded in. Please can you comment on my prospects, and am I likely to spend more than £3,000 on costs?

Your prospects are somewhat doubtful. We would advise you to consult a solicitor. The costs should not exceed the sum you mention unless you lose and the other side have been put to unusual expense.

I would value your advice regarding a furnished two room flat that I own. The tenant has complained of iced up pipes and cannot get water in the kitchen or toilet.

She has asked me to get a plumber and of course pay for him.

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I would value your advice regarding a furnished two room

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Ambition unlimited

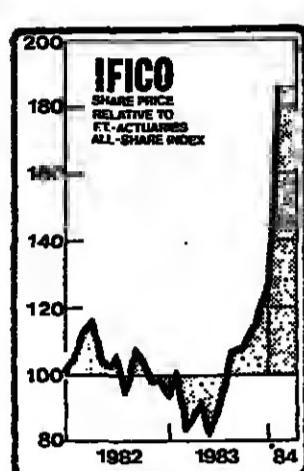
Unlisted Securities Market

"WE ARE Mr Fixit, the man in the middle," says 47-year-old Mr Christopher Norland, chief executive of one of the USM's few finance companies, Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation.

This week, Mr Norland has fixed it for the jeans and casual-wear company Pepe Group, by sponsoring its USM flotation.

It is an example of IFICO's skill in securing for companies, and for local authorities, a wide range of finance. Leasing, management buy-outs, venture capital tax breaks and loans are all part of IFICO's book. It is also a licensed deposit-taker and securities dealer.

At present the company is



trying to pull off a complicated deal to fund its own future development. In a contested takeover bid, ICIFCO is attempting to acquire East of Scotland Onshore, a specialist energy investment trust.

It is the USM's first experience of a financing method which already has been tried successfully by several main market companies—the disguised rights issue. If the bid succeeds, IFICO would more than double its issued capital in paying for East of Scotland in shares, and then sell the trust's investments for cash. East of Scotland's total net asset value last November was put at £6.72m.

The market so far has reacted positively to news of the bid—IFICO shares which were 180p before the announcement three weeks ago were trading at 230p at the end of this week.

Stefan Wagstyl

Equities pushed into back seat

LONDON ONLOOKER

THERE was action galore in the foreign exchange and gilt-edged markets this week. The dollar stole the headlines on Monday as central banks appeared powerless to halt the upward progression of the "green-back". In London the pound finished trading at an all-time closing low of \$1.054. But 48 hours can seem a lifetime on foreign exchange markets and a concerted effort by those "powerless" bankers on Wednesday bad the dollar on the run in chaotic trading conditions.

By Wednesday evening sterling was back up to \$1.088 in London. At last the market had been shown that central banks have some real influence over their currencies. It would still take a brave man to suggest that the setback marks a turning point in the currency's underlying strength. There are plenty of observers around who maintain it is still in a strong bull phase.

The gilt market was rocked on Thursday by the Government's move to close a long-standing tax loophole. The Inland Revenue is introducing new rules that will end the practice of "bond-washing". This is a device whereby funds sell gilts with accrued interest ahead of dividend payment, in effect turning income into capital gains, and then buy them back later. The Revenue believes this costs the Government £30m in lost tax and is calling a halt to the practice by changing the tax rules.

Clearly, there are risks involved in backing IFICO. The company's excellent track record over the past three years has been achieved against the background of a very long-running bull market in which companies have been very keen to raise capital. In its present form under Mr Norland, it has yet to show its mettle in more difficult conditions.

The City revolution certainly opens up possibilities for small, fleet-footed finance companies, but competition in profitable areas is likely to be intense. IFICO does have useful contacts outside the City—but this, too, is a field in which there are competitors: for example, ICFC.

On balance, the shares—trading on a multiple of about 10, assuming full-year profits of £1.1m and a 30 per cent tax charge—do not look expensive. But investors should be aware that small finance company shares of this kind tend to be volatile.

As far back as last April, when ICI turned in first quarter profits of £245m, the market was suggesting that the chemicals giant could be the first British industrial group to break the £1bn profits barrier. That suggestion turned into conviction as the quarterly figures mounted and for the last few months the only doubt

for equities generally, well they seemed to be quietly twitching in their sleep ahead of an alarm call on the afternoon of March 19, but it looks increasingly likely that the Budget will be a muted affair.

ICI over £1bn

was by how much the £bn could be surpassed.

On Thursday Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, revealed £1.034bn pre-tax, a rise of two-thirds against 1983 and a result he proudly proclaimed as "Evidence that we are one of the world's most successful and profitable chemicals companies." Even from a less subjective standpoint the group's achievement is pretty staggering. It was only a couple of years back that analysts were suggesting ICI would only make £600m to £650m in 1984.

The shares, however, reacted perversely to the news, given

that the market had been anticipating something in the region of £1.03bn for a while it would have been unreasonable to expect the price to go ploughing forward but a fall of 21p to 83p looked puzzling especially as the shares were rising until Wall Street opened and Americans started selling. There was some suggestion that U.S. brokers analysis found the 67 per cent profits improvement disappointing though possibly New York had adroitly spotted the £1bn share placing on the way to finance the Beatrice acquisition.

But whatever the shares did on Thursday the management deserves congratulating for the way it has pulled the group around and brought down the break-even level in its commodity product operations. By far the biggest improvement came from the petrochemicals and plastics division where the

previous year's loss of £7m was turned into a trading profit of £13m.

Chemical sales jumped by 23 per cent overseas (almost three-quarters of turnover arises outside the UK) while at home the advance was 7 per cent. Prices were increased by some 4 per cent during the year and volume growth was about 8 per cent. Admittedly the group had a fair amount of luck on its side. The performance of the dollar added around £100m to profits while the improvement of the group's oil business was clearly thanks to factors beyond its control.

Mr Harvey-Jones is setting his sights on a profits improvement for 1985 though the rate of increase is not going to be anything like as dramatic as in 1984. Early estimates by the brokers indicate something between £1.1bn and £1.2bn but the antics of the dollar are important and just two months into the year forecasts have to be fairly tentative. A prospective p/e of under eight hardly does justice to ICI's achievements even if it is heading into a year of relatively pedestrian growth.

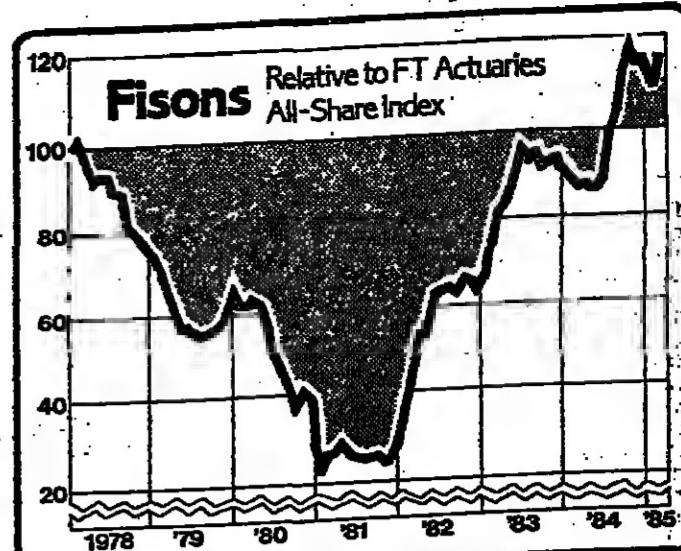
Fisons' rights

If ICI was disappointed by the way the market greeted its results Mr John Kerridge, chairman of Fisons, could not have hoped for a better reception for his annual figures on Thursday even though they were accompanied by the much rumoured rights issue.

All three divisions—pharmaceuticals, scientific equipment and horticulture—produced record profits adding up to a 55 per cent rise at the pre-tax level to £43.3m. Earnings per share are up by 35 per cent and shareholders receive a 20 per cent improvement in the dividend payout.

On the pharmaceuticals side domestic operations have been slightly restrained but there has been good growth from the U.S. where sales jumped by 75 per cent in sterling terms. All three of Fisons' main allergy drugs are now well established in North America.

The rights issue, on the basis of one-for-five, at 245p a share, raising £94.3m, is the second within two years, but the market accepted the news without a murmur thanks to the buoyant full-year figures. On the face of it Fisons is not an obvious candidate for an issue. Capital gearing is only around 33 per cent but the management argues that half the money raised will reinforce earlier expenditure on acquisitions and capital investment and the rest will sit ready to exploit future



increased by only 20 per cent against 29 per cent from the European bailiwick and 36 per cent from the Far and Middle East.

Failures and mergers amongst U.S. commodity dealers are blamed for the result but surely Reuters cannot be entirely happy that its activities across the Atlantic trailed behind the rest of the group, no matter how good the extenuating circumstances. So the acquisition of Rich, a Chicago-based leader in the field of dealing room systems, for \$37.5m which was announced alongside the results, is perhaps of greater significance than it may at first appear.

Reuters has a commendable reputation and is proving itself agile at creating new products. Its latest idea is to provide an equity dealing service in the UK. Traders would be able to buy and sell shares through their Reuters terminals. In the U.S., however, the competition is no less inventive and the purchase of Rich must be designed to add some extra bite to its marketing.

Rich accounts for around 30 per cent of the North American market for its type of dealing system. If Reuters can climb aboard as this substantial hardware clinches its orders it will obviously ease the way for its U.S. expansion.

Not that the benefits of acquisition will flow just one way. The Reuters service fits naturally alongside Rich systems and the latter's sales should be enhanced too. Both sides are probably hoping that two plus two can equal five. In London analysts are already talking of £100m as a minimum target though with £84m in cash and highly rated equity Reuters may add further to its list of activities before next December comes round.

Terry Garrett

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price y'day	Change on week	1984/5 High	1984/5 Low	
F.T. Ord. Index	975.0	+ 0.2	1,024.5	755.3	Uncertain despite pound's rally.
Baggeridge Brick	255	+35	255	124	Speculative buying.
BP	525	-40	575	395	Weak oil prices/figs. on Thurs.
Burnett & Hallamshire	70	-95	205	60	Debt problems.
Cape Inds.	38	+ 4	118	32	Sale of auto business to BBA.
Group Lotus Car	91	+15	91	54	Chrysler link rumours.
Hogg Robinson	278	+18	281	130	Revised speculative demand.
House of Fraser	346	+30	346	220	Speculative demand.
ICI	842	-38	885	526	U.S. selling after results.
Imperial Group	185.0d	-16.2	222	134	Withdrawal of U.S. support.
Imtec	47	-13	85	47	Interim profits setback.
Invent Energy	790	+130	790	280	Good results/exploration hopes.
Jackson (J. & H.B.)	84.0d	+20	84	50	Takeover hopes.
Leeds Group	160	+20	160	97	Bid speculation.
Marley	84	- 6	104	65	Disappointing annual results.
Martin (R.P.)	435	+40	440	220	Speculative buying.
Offield Inspection Serv.	140	+45	210	70	Speculative buying.
Oxford Instruments	278	+35	333	238	Bid speculation.
Patners (Jewellers)	62	+16	62	40	Speculative demand.
Style	178	+13	210	73	Ziff family purchases KIO stake.

If THERE is no improvement in (metal) prices from today and no changes in currency values, trading profit in the second half will not exceed that for the first half."

These words—famous last words?—came last September with the results for the first six months of 1984 issued by CRA. The Rio Tinto-Zinc group's big Australian mining arm which was reporting a net profit of A\$1.8m for the period.

This week CRA has announced a net loss of A\$2.3m for the second half of 1984. So the net profit for the full year is reduced to A\$29.5m, equal to 6 cents per share, from A\$71.5m in 1983. Inevitably, the dividend total for 1984 has been cut to 8 cents from 12 cents.

The outcome looks rather worse than it need be owing to CRA's cautious policy of making a particularly generous provision for depreciation, up to A\$28.6m from A\$26.9m, and for providing for potential currency losses as well as for those actually realised. However, this does not alter the fact that the group is going to through a tough time.

As we all know, metal prices weakened in the second half of last year while currencies have come even further out of line; the strength of the U.S. dollar contrasted with the weakness of the Australian dollar. There is a "snakes and ladders" aspect

to currency movements as well as, some might say, Australian accounting practice.

While the fall in the value of the Australian dollar has enhanced CRA revenue in terms of the products it sells for U.S. dollars, it has made the repayment and interest on loans designated in U.S. dollars much more expensive. Conversely, if the U.S. dollar falls and the Australian currency rises, CRA is not going to be much, if any, better off.

What the group, and all others like it, really needs is a genuine rise in metal prices, notably copper and aluminium and an improvement in coal markets. Ironically, demand for metals is good but it has not reached the point at which surplus stocks have been mopped up to allow increases in real prices.

The Consolidated Gold Fields group's 49 per cent-owned Newmont Goldfields Consolidated (RGCC) sees "some signs for optimism" and promises further comment on its prospects in about three weeks' time. The Australian group has seen its pre-tax earnings for the six months to December 31 rumble

by 49 per cent to A\$4.09m.

Still, the fortunes and the snakes and ladders board have allowed RGCC to fight the period to a draw at net level. Helped by an exceptionally low tax charge and a profit on the sale of assets from the closed-down Gunpowder copper mine, RGCC comes out with distributable profits of A\$1.88m for the half year against A\$4.68m last time.

The company is also suffering from low copper prices while its splendid big tin mine in Tasmania has to operate at less than capacity owing to the export restrictions imposed by the International Tin Agreement in its efforts to remove surplus stocks from the market.

On the other side of the coin, there has been a strong recovery in demand and prices for the mineral sands produced by RGCC while the final quarter of this year should bring the start-up of two new gold operations, at Pine Point in the Northern Territory and Wau in Papua New Guinea.

Things are also looking up well, to some extent—for the minority shareholders in Seltrust Holdings, the 75.4 per cent-owned struggling Australian

mining subsidiary of British Petroleum. The latter, presumably chastened by the resounding rejection of its earlier restructuring proposals for Seltrust, has come up with a better deal.

Seltrust is not to be broken up and its assets sold for what they may fetch, as BP earlier threatened. Instead, BP is to take over the debts and the bulk of the non-gold assets, as before. The rest is to be put into a new company.

Seltrust holders will be offered 34 shares in this company, plus options to buy a further 38 shares at 20 cents, for every Seltrust share held. Under the new deal, the new company is to have cash assets of A\$9.2m compared with the originally proposed A\$8.5m and it will also be given a 9.5 per cent stake in the Agnew mine.

It will retain the 75 per cent interest in the promising Tamora gold project in New South Wales. The deal raises the value of the new company's assets to A\$23.5m, or 70 cents per share compared with 60 cents under the original proposal.

Seltrust holders who prefer to accept the alternative of a cash offer from their shares from BP will be given 60 cents (about 40p) per share instead of the previous offer of 54 cents.

Kenneth Marston

MINING

Snakes & Ladders

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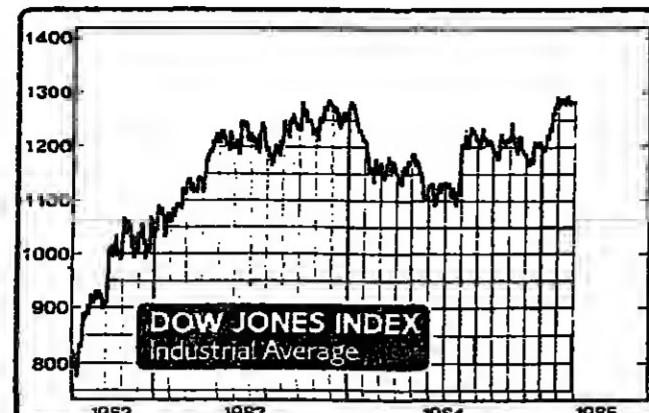
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Fund objective To provide long-term capital growth through investment in the shares of companies operating in the field of new technology.
Shares may be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Manager, payment is normally made within 7 days of their receiving a certificate. Price: 481284.
Net income per unit: 5¢ plus winding up adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.5% per annum. Remuneration (at rate available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual charge: currently 1% of the Fund plus VAT. This charge is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Manager's expenses, including Trustee's fees.

Investment powers The Manager has executed a supplemental trust deed enabling the manager to make part or all of Save & Prosper Securities Limited liable to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry.

WEEK IN THE MARKETS

FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

Dollar debacle hits bonds**NEW YORK**
TERRY DODSWORTH

IT IS not often that the U.S. equity market finds itself in a direct struggle with the funding world of foreign exchange, but this was one of those weeks. The wild gyrations of the dollar, attacked in force by the combined ranks of the European central banks, has fed dramatically into the U.S. credit markets, forcing up interest rates sharply. Understandably, equities have simply not been able to escape what was happening to rates.

For bonds as well, this process of cause and effect was also somewhat unusual. Until very recently, the Wall Street consensus was that the dollar was being held up very substantially by the high yields available on U.S. debt instruments. The escalating demands of the U.S. Treasury was combining with the heavy requirements of the corporate sector to keep the cost of funds high by historic standards—and foreigners were buying the dollar to cash in on the returns available in the U.S. But this argument was turned upside down in the course of the dollar debacle this week.

It all started yet again with Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, appearing at another committee meeting down in Washington. In a series of oblique remarks, he eventually convinced Wall Street that he would like to intervene to push the dollar back stronger central bank down. Analysts interpreted this to mean that he would also like to tighten credit conditions. The belief is that, after its more relaxed monetary posture late last year, the Fed would like to rein-in credit growth, but has been worried that any move to push interest rates higher would also send the dollar up to unacceptable levels.

From here, it was only a small step to the massive sell-off in the bond market which saw the Treasury long bond fall by two whole points on Wednesday, its biggest decline in 18 months. Forecasters had convinced themselves that the direction of rates for the time being is unequivocally up, and the ripple effect spread throughout the credit markets. By Wednesday evening, the yield on the Treasury 30-year long bond had jumped from 17.0 per cent on the previous

Friday night to 1.92 per cent, while three-month bills were up from 8.38 per cent in 8.39 per cent. Only seven days before, the long bond yield had stood at 11.3 per cent.

In these conditions, equities did reasonably well to hold their own. In the Wednesdays bloodbath, all bond and currency dealers were swept along by panic. Rather than a reasoned argument, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost only a little over five points, easily maintaining the equity market on the new plateau it established for itself in the January rally.

Some of this strength came from the perception that there are a great number of U.S. companies who will benefit from a decline in the dollar. Many of the big computer concerns led by IBM, the giant of the industry, have been complaining vociferously recently about the damaging impact the dollar will have on their profits from overseas sales in the first quarter. There are, equally, many other companies that would benefit from a reduction in competitive market, where they are under incessant assault from cheap imports.

These arguments, particularly on the export side, were reflected in the strength of the drug companies on Wednesday. Even technology stocks benefited to some degree, though they have been knocked around recently by other factors, including indications that sales will be depressed in the first quarter—Intel, the semiconductor manufacturer, said this week that its first-quarter revenues may be around 15 per cent lower than the final quarter of last year.

The area in which equities clearly are vulnerable in the present atmosphere is interest rates—in two senses. A rise in rates could cut deeply into pre-tax corporate profits because of the very high level of short-term debt now being carried by U.S. companies. These borrowings have to be refunded, and this may be at substantially higher rates in the near future. At the same time, the expected increase in returns on U.S. debt instruments would make it more difficult for equity yields to compete with bonds.

At present, many analysts believe that the equity market ought to be able to hold its own on the yield arguments as long as there is not another upward swing in rates. The yield on shares in the Dow Jones Industrial Average now stands at around 4.7 per cent, and it should gain by what are expected to be generous increases in dividends this year.

The danger, say the sceptics, is that the current yield gap of around 7.2 percentage points between equities and long bonds may expand because of increasing interest rates. But there is still a very strong lobby for the view that inflation is in long-term retreat, and that interest rates will eventually respond by coming down.

Some forecasters, such as Prudential Bache, are arguing that the failure of a contrary bear trend to establish itself on Wall Street in the past fortnight means that the early-year bull market will break out again later this month; and First Boston contends that the auguries are so good for equities that the Dow Jones Industrial Average could be in the 1530-1650 range by the end of the year.

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The Sunday Times 20th January 1985

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Beware of keen unit trust brokers

Clive Wolman sounds a cautionary note on advisory services

AFTER SO many new launches over the last year, the small investor has a wider choice of unit trusts than he does among the 789 UK companies which feature in the FT-Actuaries All Share Index.

The diversity of funds may be a trying experience for those investing in the stock market via a professionally managed fund which spreads risks. It may be as difficult to decide between the Schroder Singapore and Malaysia trust and the Waverley Australian Gold trust as it between Marks & Spencer and ICL.

To guide investors over the last four years several unit trust advisory services and brokers have sprung up. They decide on the best unit trusts for their clients' money according to the clients' wealth, tax position, attitude to risk and what they believe to be the investment prospects for different world stock markets. They can also use their bargaining strength to buy into unit trusts at a discount or when the bid-offer spreads are most favourable.

By taking the strategic decisions themselves, the unit trust brokers generate additional commission which they pocket every time they switch their clients' money between different funds. The choice of funds also allows them to demonstrate to their clients how active they have been on their behalf. They can thus justify their own management charges which are superimposed on the unit trust managers' charges and come typically to between 0.25 and 0.6 per cent per year of the assets under their management. Can these advisory services

CAPITAL GROWTH PORTFOLIOS £10,000 INITIAL INVESTMENT

Portfolio	% change over year-end year performed Dec. 1984	Jan. 1982- Original portfolio unchanged
Berry Asset Management	+1.7	17.198
Unit Trust Selection Service	+15.3	16.096
Callan	+12.7	16.251
Edenham Securities	+10.2	13.112
Hargreaves Lansdown	+9.0	17.471
Hoare Govett UTAS	+9.6	16.947
Investment Selection & Management	+13.8	14.525
Premier Unit Trust Brokers	+12.3	17.344
Richard Longstaff UTAM	+11.5	17.344
Spry Unit Trust Management	+5.3	15.333
Towerhill Securities	-0.9	11.968
Fraser Hendersons	-7.2	9.636
Hill Samuel	+19.4	14.681
Tenche Remnant	+12.5	11.236
Whitechurch Securities	+36.0	11.907

Source: Planned Savings.

average return achievable from a world-wide portfolio of shares. The third benchmark, the Planned Savings Unit Trust Index, indicates the average return from investing in UK unit trusts. If your only concern is whether you should go directly to a unit trust rather than through a broker, the Unit Trust Index is probably the most useful benchmark.

Only the two Bristol services beat any of the three benchmarks over the three-year period. Neither was able to show much consistency by keeping ahead in all three years. Richards Longstaff, which achieved spectacular performance showing gains of over 50 per cent in 1982 and 1983, lagged behind most of the field in 1984.

Last year proved an embarrassment both for unit trust brokers and managers. Only one broker, Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities, turned in a performance ahead of the Unit Trust Index, which itself was way behind the other two benchmarks. Seager's success was due above all to his selection of the Royal London unit trust, American Growth and Special Situations.

Most unit trust brokers, though, achieved a higher annual return on their income unit trust portfolios than on their capital growth portfolios, the result of the strong increases in dividend payments by UK companies over the last two years and the successful restructuring of many high-yielding companies in the recession.

Top of the charts in the income section is another Bristol advisory service, Hargreaves Lansdown. The Unit Trust Selection Service run by London stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers is in second place.

justify their existence by achieving higher returns, after deducting charges, than would the investor by going to unit trusts directly?

Planned Savings, a monthly magazine for financial advisers, seeks to answer this question in a survey of the investment performance of 15 unit trust advisers and brokers over the past three years.

Its simple conclusion is that you should not touch a unit trust broker with a barge-pole. Of the 12 monitored over the full three-year period to December 1984, only two could claim to have added rather than

lost value for their clients.

These were two Bristol-based services: Richards Longstaff, Unit Trust Portfolio Managers, and Premier Unit Trust Brokers.

Planned Savings provides three benchmarks against which to judge the investment performance of the managers. One is the FT-Actuaries All-Share Index. This indicates the average returns that an investor in UK shares would have achieved over the period (excluding his dealing costs).

Second, the Capital International World Index, translated into sterling, indicates the

FT

288p each.

Stuart is keen to dispel the notion that the MLA fund concentrates on this kind of speculative, high-growth share. He never held Bio-isolates or London and Liverpool, he says, referring to two more recent wonder stocks.

As a general trust, MLA cannot expect to outperform the best specialist fund in any one year, Stuart says. But in the next year, when that particular market may have taken a turn for the worse, he hopes to leave the specialist behind.



Brian Stuart

The virtue of non-specialisation

George Graham talks to MLA fund manager Brian Stuart

when the price reached £20.

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Stuart is often looking for special opportunities with much longer term prospects. One such was Polly Peck.

Stuart bought the shares because he liked Polly Peck's record of earnings growth, though other investors were still sceptical about whether anything concrete lay behind the figures. He expected the investment to take three or four years to pay off.

In fact, it was only eighteen months before the price started to soar. Stuart bought at about £3 a share, and added a few more at £6.30. He began to sell

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Stuart is keen to dispel the notion that the MLA fund concentrates on this kind of speculative, high-growth share. He never held Bio-isolates or London and Liverpool, he says, referring to two more recent wonder stocks.

As a general trust, MLA cannot expect to outperform the best specialist fund in any one year, Stuart says. But in the next year, when that particular market may have taken a turn for the worse, he hopes to leave the specialist behind.

Stuart points out that he has to take a longer term view because of the expenses involved in short-term trading.

If he is very gloomy about stock market prospects, he says, it is expensive to pull money out of shares and put it on deposit at a bank. Selling the shares and buying them back again when he is more confident will cost 6 to 8 per cent of their value in dealing charges alone.

Stuart is often looking for special opportunities with much longer term prospects. One such was Polly Peck.

Stuart bought the shares because he liked Polly Peck's record of earnings growth, though other investors were still sceptical about whether anything concrete lay behind the figures. He expected the investment to take three or four years to pay off.

In fact, it was only eighteen months before the price started to soar. Stuart bought at about £3 a share, and added a few more at £6.30. He began to sell

when the price reached £20.

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YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

More private investors check out traded options

THE BRITISH TELECOM flotation last December gave the traded options market the break it had been looking for after six frustrating years.

Turnover on the options exchange leaped nearly three-fold to 26,884 contracts when trading in the BT options began on December 4—the day after dealings in the underlying shares had begun on the Stock Market. The previous turnover record on the options market had been 10,160 contracts.

"BT has been phenomenal," says Tony Whalley, traded options specialist at stock-

brokers Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee.

"BT triggered off a whole new lot of cleios," echoes Gillian Nathan of Vickers da Costa.

On that first heady day of trading BT accounted for no less than 87 per cent of total option business. Its share has fallen back but the spin-off of interest from BT to other stocks has produced volumes which the Stock Exchange hopes will prove permanent.

A stock index option, based on the FTSE 100 Stock Index was introduced last May. This allows individuals to hedge at stock-

risk on their portfolios or take a view on the future development of the stock market as a whole.

In January a short gilt option was added, based on the 10 per cent Exchequer 1989 gilt stock.

Tax restraints on individuals

and institutions have gradually been removed. Last May the Inland Revenue ruled that individuals face capital gains tax rather than income tax on any profits on FTSE 100 Stock Index contracts.

Institutions still dominate the

Charles Batchelor explains how the BT flotation has boosted the trade options market out of a six-year gloom... and Clive Wolman advises Telecom shareholders whether or not to sell

traded options market—as they do the equities market. But the influx of more private investors has led to a healthier balance between buyers of options (usually individual investors) and their sellers (usually the institutions). This increase in buying demand has, however, bid the effect of pushing up option prices. And until there is an increase in the number of professional market makers and an increase in competition between them, the spread between buy and sell prices is likely to remain fairly wide.

Most importantly, the options market has achieved a critical mass. Enough options are now quoted to guarantee at least half a dozen volatile options at any time.

The Commercial Union option slumbered for several years before bid speculation led to volatile share price movements and attractive option possibilities in 1983 and 1984. Jaguar, Racal, ICI and Imperial Tobacco Group have all provided speculative opportunities in recent months.

Even if interest in BT wanes in the months ahead, the traded options market appears to have finally established itself.

C.B.

Make Buzby happy—don't hang up on him

FOR THE hundreds of thousands of British Telecom shareholders, this has been a worrying week. The BT share price, after reaching a peak of 134p last month, fell back below 120p.

For those who have a relatively high proportion of their assets tied up in BT and possibly own no other UK company shares, the advice you would normally receive would be to take your profits now by selling the shares.

But the Government is prepared to offer further incentives to those who hold onto BT shares longer. If you were originally allocated at least 400 shares and can keep them until June 23, after paying the second call of 50p per share, you may be entitled to two £18 vouchers which can be used to reduce your next two telephone bills.

If you were allocated 800 shares you could receive a further two vouchers in December. If you elected to receive the bonus shares, you will have to wait until January 1988 before being granted one extra share for every 10 you were allocated originally.

The two vouchers due in June are certainly worth waiting for, at least if you have to pay BT telephone bills. Assuming that the BT share price four months hence will be the same as now, say 120p, the perk of two vouchers in June represents

a tax-free return of about 24 per cent (on an annualised basis) from holding onto 400 shares.

But if you're worried that the share price may fall further, you have a further possibility. You can use BT traded options to hedge the risks of a fall. The simple principle is that you deal in options to ensure that whatever money you lose from a fall in the BT share price, you make the same amount from the options.

To achieve this, you would need to sell (or "write") call options on all the shares you wish to hedge—and use the money, or part of the money, to buy put options on the same number of shares.

By writing 120p options on, say, 400 of your BT shares from the August series (see page 27) you give someone the right to buy from you 400 BT shares at a price of 120p some time before the expiry date in August. (An adjustment will be made if you have already paid the second call on June 23, before selling your shares.) On yesterday morning's stock market prices, you will earn 12p on each 120p call option you sell. Thus, provided the BT share price does not fall more than 12p by the time you sell, you will still be ahead.

If you think there is a risk that the share price could fall further than 12p, you may be exercised against buying a put.

If, however, the BT share price has risen sharply to above 120p by the time you sell your shares, your put options will be worthless, or almost worthless. In addition you now face the risk that the call options you wrote will be exercised against you at a price of only 120p. This

involves buying 120p put options from the same August series. Yesterday morning you would have paid a price of only about 3p per option. For this purpose you can use the money you take from selling the calls, and still be ahead by 3p per option minus the dealing expenses.

The put options will allow you to sell your shares at a guaranteed price of 120p at any time between now and August, regardless of the price of BT shares in the stock market.

In practice, when you decide to sell your underlying shares, you will not have to sell them direct to the writer of your put options. Instead, you just sell your shares in the normal way through the stock market by dealing with a stockbroker and also sell your August put options through the market. If the BT share price by then has fallen sharply, your put options will be very valuable. In fact, your profits from the options should more or less match your losses from holding on to the shares rather than selling them now.

If, however, the BT share price has risen sharply to above 120p by the time you sell your shares, your put options will be worthless, or almost worthless. In addition you now face the risk that the call options you wrote will be exercised against you at a price of only 120p. This represents the mirror image of buying a put.

Playing the options market would require you to buy more BT shares, possibly at a price well above 120p, and sell them on to the holder of the call options for only 120p. To remove this risk, you must buy back the call options you wrote through a stockbroker at the same time as you sell your underlying shares. The cost of buying the options would then wipe out, or nearly wipe out, your additional profits from holding on to BT shares.

The strategy of writing call options and buying an equal number of put options can provide you with a near-perfect hedge against share price fluctuations. There are, however, other strategies you can follow.

For example, you could just buy the put options without selling the calls. Thus you would be protected against a fall in the BT share price but you would still benefit from a strong rise. The only cost of this strategy is that of buying the put option, which is rather like paying an insurance premium.

Alternatively, if you think that the share price is not likely to move far in either direction between now and the time you intend to sell, you could write call options on your shares. This represents the mirror image of buying a put.

C.W.

School fee payments

INFLATION may well be running at the lowest levels for over a decade. Parents with children being educated in the private sector can be forgiven for thinking otherwise—school fee bills each term would imply continued inflation at high rates.

The annual surveys by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS)—the body that sponsors the private education sector—show that the average school fee charges have risen far faster than inflation for well over a decade, reflecting the rise in teachers' salaries and the expanding cost of capital equipment in the schools.

This has had severe repercussions on parents funding school fees out of taxed income.

In response to parental pleas, ISIS has arranged a school fees loan plan with National Westminster Bank, details of which were released this week and is available to ISIS members.

Parents can draw on this fund over a five-year period—the normal fee-paying period for senior pupil education. Interest is 16½ per cent—2½ per cent above NatWest base rate.

Repayment is by a low-cost endowment from a selected panel of four life companies acceptable security such as a

portfolio of stocks and shares. Under this scheme the parent establishes a flexible educational fund, financed by NatWest up to 70 per cent of the total value of the house (less existing mortgages) or other securities, subject to a maximum of 24 times either parents' income.

Thus, if the parent's house is worth £80,000 and there is a £25,000 mortgage outstanding the maximum educational fund is 70 per cent of £80,000 less £25,000, that is £31,000.

Parents can draw on this fund over a five-year period—the normal fee-paying period for senior pupil education. Interest is 16½ per cent—2½ per cent above NatWest base rate.

Repayment is by a low-cost endowment from a selected panel of four life companies acceptable security such as a

over any period between 10 and 25 years, subject to payment by age 65.

ISIS accepts this,

and its literature emphasises that the scheme is no substitute for proper advance financial planning for fees.

An example in the literature on the scheme highlights the cost of the scheme. A parent borrowing £12,000 could pay a cumulative amount of more than £46,000 in 18 years at a current annual percentage rate of 18 per cent.

Even if the parent did no planning ahead, there is no reason why he should not shop around for a loan and the ISIS/NatWest scheme does not appear to be the best in the market.

Many school fee specialists have their own loan arrangements which could sometimes offer a better return or a lower financial burden.

Details of these specialists and of the new loan scheme can be obtained from Independent Schools Information Service, 96 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

Eric Short

A PROPERTY INVESTMENT WITH TAX RELIEF

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Palmerston Property Developments plc.

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME up to 8,000,000 shares of £1 each.

*A new property development company, to operate in the commercial, industrial and retail sectors.

*A Board of highly experienced professionals.

*Tax relief for qualifying investors in the 1984/85 tax year.

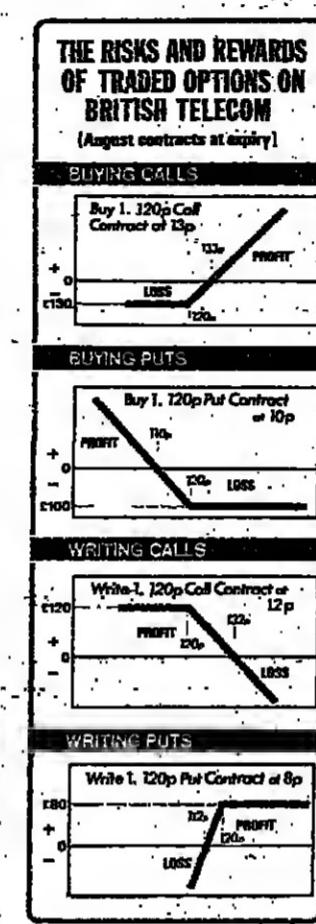
*Minimum investment only £1,000.

Applications will be accepted only on the basis of the information in the prospectus, which may be obtained from the sponsors of the issue:

Lancashire & Yorkshire Investment Management Limited, 73 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DD. Tel: 01-935 5566.

Member of the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Subscriptions open on 4th March 1985 and the Offer may be closed at any time. Lancashire & Yorkshire's offices will be open for personal and telephone calls during normal business hours, and from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays, until the Offer is closed.



BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

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An Offer for Subscription of up to 3,800,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at par payable in full on application.

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Tel: 01-626 6225

An over-the-counter market will be created in the Company's shares.

ACT BEFORE BUDGET DAY—TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 1985

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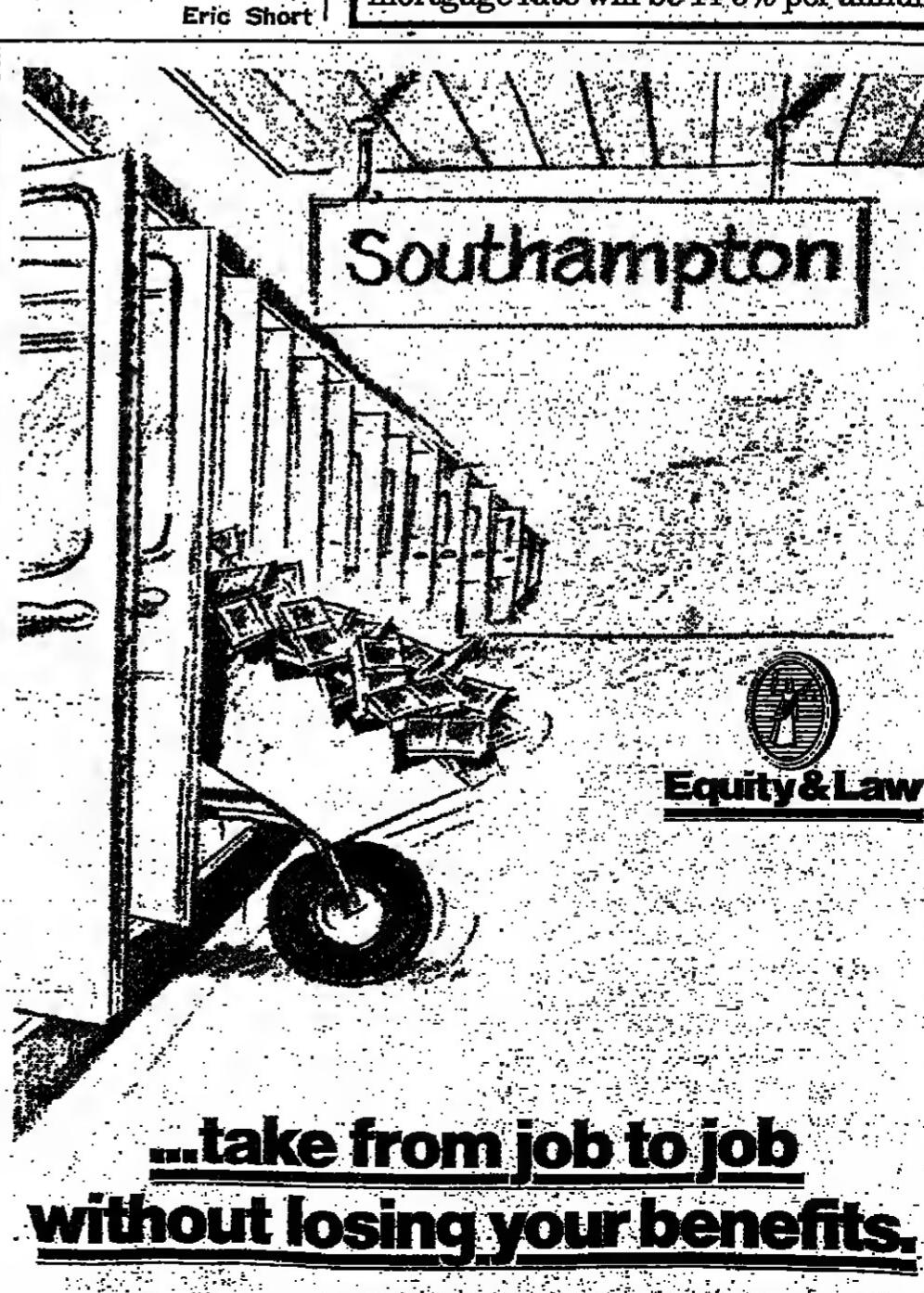
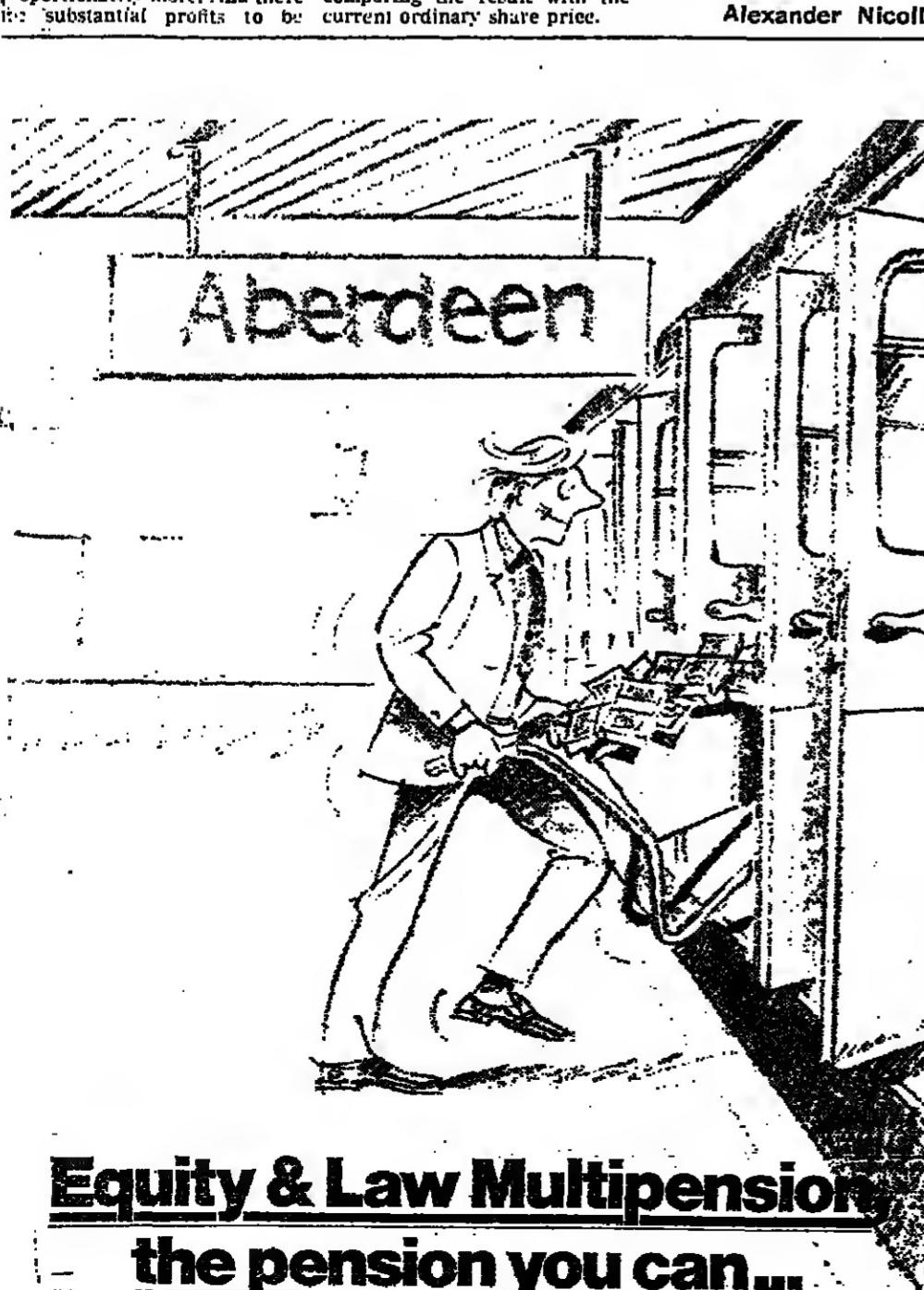
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FTS

Kleinwort Benson

With effect from 1st March 1985 the Kleinwort Benson Limited mortgage rate will be 14·5% per annum

Eric Short



BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

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Offer for Subscription under the Terms of the Business Expansion Scheme

of up to 7,500,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each payable in full on application.

Introduced by Houston Financial Services Limited

The Company's business is the purchase, development, refurbishment and re-sale of residential property in London and the Home Counties.

Advantages in the investor include:

- * An asset backed investment
- * An experienced management team
- * Development policy aimed at minimum return of 25% on each project
- * Tax relief to qualifying individuals under the BES

Copies of the prospectus, upon the terms of which alone application may be made, are available from:

Houston Financial Services Ltd 01-626 4011 or Princeton Properties PLC 01-930 6472

Offer closes 5pm on 18th March 1985

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares.

Minimum subscription £1,000

To: Houston Financial Services Ltd, 69 King William Street, London EC4N 7DH

Please send a copy of the prospectus for Princeton Properties PLC to:

Name _____

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Postcode _____

and a further copy to my professional adviser:

Name _____

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TAX RELIEF IN 1984/5

ROMAN HOMES PLC

Offer for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme
Sponsored by
Capital Ventures Limited
(Licensed Dealers in Securities)

Up to 2,500,000 Ordinary Shares of 20p each at 40p per share, payable in full on application.

Roman Homes PLC will develop sites for the building of retirement homes specifically designed for the elderly.

The main features of the Company are:
 * Assets in property
 * Operating in a rapidly expanding market.
 * The promoters are personally investing £240,000.

* First site already contracted.

The subscription list is now open and will close not later than 12 noon on 4th April 1985—or earlier if the offer is fully subscribed. Shares will be allotted on 18th March 1985 subject to the minimum subscription being received.

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares. For a copy of the full prospectus and application form please complete the coupon or telephone (0242) 554380.

To: Capital Ventures Limited 37 London Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL2 6HA.
Please send me a Prospectus for Roman Homes PLC.

Name _____
Address _____

Business Expansion Scheme

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Offer for Subscription of up to 10,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at 60p per share.

Payable in full on application on or before March 15th, 1985
Minimum Subscription 1000 Shares

The Company has been incorporated to develop prime residential property in London, and features:

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- ASSETS IN PROPERTY OR CASH
- DIRECTORS WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORDS
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Sponsored by
UTC Securities Management Limited
Licensed dealer in securities

55 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DB
Telephone: 01-499 0223

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Please send me _____ copies of the prospectus.
Name _____
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INCOME TAX RELIEF 1984/85

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or to purchase any securities.

LIMEHILL PLC

Property Development

Offer for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme of up to £2,000,000

by

PACMAN FUND MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Licensed Dealers in Securities

Limehill PLC is a new company which will be involved in the purchase, construction, development, management and sale of property mainly in Southern England but concentrated on the London Dockland area.

Investors, who comply with the statutory requirements, should reap the benefit of BES relief on the subscription price of their shares.

The Subscription List opened at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 27th February, 1985 and will be closed not later than 5 p.m. on 29th March, 1985 or earlier if the offer is fully subscribed. If the minimum subscription is received by 15th March 1985 the shares in the Company for which valid applications have been received will be allotted and issued at that time.

Telephone 01-580 4036 (24 hr service) for a copy of the prospectus or complete the coupon below.

To: Pacman Fund Management Limited,
24 Weymouth Street, London, W1N 3FA.

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus for Limehill PLC.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

FT235

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Telephone: (0273) 673136—24 hr answerphone service.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR TAX RELIEF!



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GREAT GABLE plc

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1948 to 1981—No. 158965)

Offer for Subscription under the
Business Expansion Scheme

sponsored by

Granville & Co. Limited

Member of the National Association of Security Dealers & Investment Managers

of up to 3,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 50p per share, payable in full on application to raise a total of up to £1.5 million.

Great Gable plc has an existing property development business which acquires Central London properties for conversion into high-quality flats for immediate resale. The key strengths of the Offer are:

- an established property development business
- an experienced and professionally qualified management team
- a prudent approach to the business
- property to be reinvested to achieve maximum capital growth
- qualifying individuals should qualify for income tax relief in this tax year

The subscription list will close when the offer is fully subscribed but in any event not later than 3.00 p.m. on 14 March 1985 (unless extended prior to that date). Applications will be considered strictly in the order in which they are received.

Copies of the Prospectus with application forms attached, on which basis only applications for shares will be accepted, are available from:

Wendy Pollecoff, Granville & Co. Limited,

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Tax gains from capital losses

David Cohen shows how poor investments can reduce your CGT liability

THE RECENT announcement by Acorn Computers of its last-ditch deal with Olivetti is particularly disappointing news for investors who have held Acorn shares since its USM launch in October 1983. When dealings resume after their suspension shares are expected to change hands at well below 20p compared with the original issue price of £1.20.

The steep decline highlights the potential importance for higher-rate taxpayers to be allowed to claim income tax relief on USM losses and the need to read the small print of prospectuses. For shareholders in Acorn are likely to be deprived of this relief by a technicality.

Losses on share transactions can generally only be used to reduce capital gains tax liability. So the maximum tax savings will be 30 per cent of the amount of the loss. But the Finance Act 1980 provides for one case in which a taxpayer can opt to set a capital loss against income rather than gains, thereby reducing his income tax bill at his marginal rate of up to 60 per cent. This special relief is available only where the shares on which the loss has been incurred are not quoted on the Stock Exchange. Shares dealt in on the USM are treated as "unquoted"—hence Acorn would qualify.

There is a further condition. The investor must have acquired his shares from the company

itself rather than from a third party.

The snag with Acorn is the way in which the offer for sale was structured. All the new shares were subscribed for by its merchant bankers, Lazar Brothers, and then sold on to the public by Lazarus. This means that investors were technically buying shares from Lazarus rather than from Acorn itself. On a strict interpretation the relief is not available—and that is apparently the view of the Inland Revenue.

As in a normal CGT case the shares must either have been sold or else declared of negligible value (see below). A claim for relief must be made within 2 years of the tax year in which the loss arises. After that the loss will be available only for offsetting against a capital gains tax bill.

Even if your losses are not within this privileged category you may still be able to put them to good use. With the end of the tax year approaching on April 5, it is a mistake to think that capital gains tax planning consists of just cashing in enough profits to cover your £5,600 tax-free annual exemption. Effective exploitation of losses can be just as important.

The first stage in calculating CGT liability is to deduct the taxpayer's realised gains. Then, if the net gain after inflation adjustment is more than the annual exemption, currently £5,600, tax at a flat rate of 30 per cent is chargeable on the excess.

The important point to note is that losses are deducted first and only afterwards is the annual exemption taken into account.

Whatever the tax planning considerations, an investor will often be unwilling to cash in a loss, clinging fervently, if unrealistically, to recovery.

A different problem is faced by the hapless investor who

has given up hope of deriving anything other than a capital loss from his investment and is

denied even that because he can't sell the shares. This may be because the company has lost its Stock Exchange quote or it may have never been listed. Or there may be a legal obstacle to a sale, such as a restrictive clause in the company's articles of association or the commencement of winding-up proceedings.

If the only problem is lack of a market—and the shareholder's sole aim is to unlock his loss—then he may be able to find a relative or friend who will be prepared to take the shares off him.

There is one situation where a taxpayer can claim a tax loss even without having disposed of the loss-producing asset. The Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 provides that if the Inland Revenue accepts that "the value of an asset has become negligible" the owner will be treated as having sold it for a negligible amount and then immediately re-acquired it, thereby releasing an allowable loss.

Exel, the statistical and financial services group, publishes a twice yearly updated list of companies whose shares the Revenue has declared to be of negligible value. If you are unlucky enough to hold shares on that list then your claim to have the loss allowed will be automatically accepted.

If, for whatever reason, your dividend investment is not listed, you can still put in a claim to your local Inspector of Taxes.

He will need to see detailed evidence of the company's decline before he reaches a decision.

David Cohen is a solicitor in London

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

CHARLOTTE STREET RESTAURANTS PLC

Charlotte Street Restaurants PLC is a company limited by guarantee. It is registered in England at the Register of Companies, London, No. 158965. Its registered office is at 11 New Street, London EC2M 4TP. Tel: 01-626 1533.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to subscribe for shares.

Please send without obligation a copy of the prospectus.

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March 2 1985

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Gilts tax loophole blocked

Those paying the most will be hit hardest, reports Clive Wokman

HIGHER RATE taxpayers seeking the best after-tax returns on their savings had their options cut on Thursday when the Inland Revenue cracked on a widespread form of tax avoidance involving Government gilt-edged securities.

Investors in low-yielding gilt unit trusts such as the Abbey Capital Reserve trust will be affected. Their method of converting income into lightly taxed capital gains, by selling gilts before the dividend is due, are the specific target of the new rules.

The basic rate taxpayers who invested substantial sums in one of the dividend stripping gilt or local authority bond schemes managed by Barlow Clowes and Pointon York will also find such investments less profitable.

But the greatest immediate

damage will be suffered by those who invested directly as individuals in the short-dated gilt market for specific purposes.

If you wished to tie up your money for less than six months, the most attractive option was to buy a short-dated gilt on which a dividend had recently been paid. You could then sell it within six months, before the next dividend was due.

By then, the price of the gilt would have risen above your purchase price in anticipation of the dividend payout. But by taking the return in the form of capital gains rather than income, you could avoid paying income tax at your top marginal rate. Gains might have been subject to capital gains tax (CGT) at 30 per cent, but only if you had used up your annual exemption from CGT on gains valued in 1984-85, at more than £5,000.

If you were worried about paying CGT, you had the alternative of holding onto the stock for more than 12 months, if

possible for nearly 18 months. You would then have to pay income on the two half-yearly dividends you received, but your capital gains would be tax free. From now on, the taxman may impose income tax only on your dividends but also on the accruing interest on your gilts as the dividend date approaches. The amount of interest that has accrued by the date you sell will be calculated according to the formula used by the Stock Exchange for short-dated gilts.

If you achieve genuine capital gains on your gilt holdings because of a cut in interest rates, that element of your returns will remain subject to the favourable CGT treatment.

Also, small investors in gilt holdings whose nominal value is less than £5,000 will be exempted from the new rules.

There is a further concession. The new rules will become fully operational February 28, 1985. Transitional arrangements for the next 12 months should provide comfort for many private investors.

Get a loan—and a pension

BRITAIN'S third largest building society, the £2.7bn Nationwide Building Society, has taken another first by ploughing wholeheartedly into the self-employed pensions market.

A few other societies have made funds available to life companies to add to their investment range for policyholders. But with its Pension-Save, Nationwide is handling the whole operation.

Under current legislation, only life companies can underwrite pension contracts, so Nationwide has linked up with Abbey Life assurance and used its expertise in designing the setting the plan approved.

Marketing and investment will be handled entirely by Nationwide.

The plan will be sold only through Nationwide's 520 branches and the society will train counter staff to handle inquiries. Abbey Life's agents will not be allowed to market the plan.

Contributions will be collected by Nationwide and passed over to Abbey Life which will invest them back in a special Pension-Save fund run by Nationwide.

The central feature of the scheme is that it offers inflation-proofed investment to the saver up to retirement. The fund guarantees that the accumulated value of the contributions will

rise each month in line with the Retail Price Index and interest will be added each year to the accumulated value at 3½ per cent.

Such index-linked funds are still rare, and life companies marketing them have not had much success. But Nationwide should be able to do better.

The self-employed can continue the inflation-proofing in retirement by using the accumulated fund to buy an index-linked annuity from Abbey Life or any other life company marketing such annuities.

For investors who want a guaranteed return on their savings that matches inflation, with something over, then this plan will attract them.

This leads on to the second feature—marketing by Nationwide staff.

Tim Melville-Ross has been an innovator since joining Nationwide. This is his first major initiative since taking over as chief general manager earlier this month. He intends that at least one person in each branch should be trained to advise and market the pension plans.

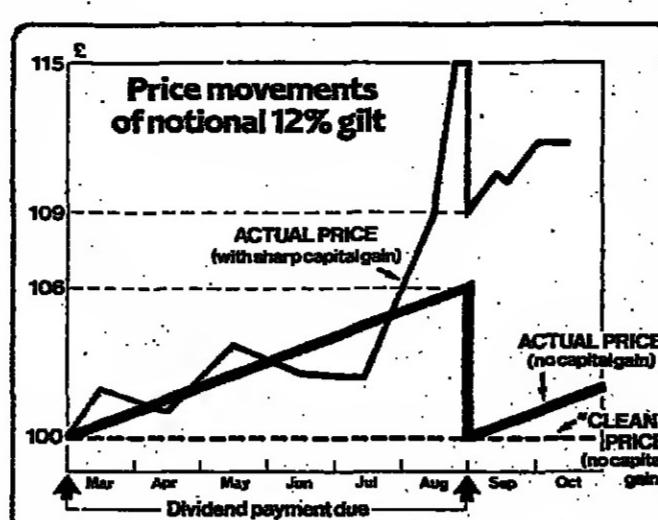
Pensions advice to the self-employed comes in two stages:

• Advising how much the individual should be contributing to ensure an adequate pension, and how much can be paid from

Eric Short

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES						
	Share a/c/s	Sub/pn shares	Others	%	%	%
Abbey National	7.50	8.50	8.75 Seven-day account			
			9.25 Higher interest acc. 90 days' notice or charge			
			6.25-8.75 Cheque-Save			
Aid to Thrift	9.60	—	— Easy withdrawal, no penalty			
Alliance	7.50	8.50	8.75 7 days' notice, immed. wdl. if balance £2,500+			
			Int. pd. 4%ly, mthly, inc. optn. If bal. £1,000+			
			9.25 Bank Save. Bal. of £1,000. Current account			
Anglia	7.50	8.50	8.25 3-year bond. No notice, 3 months' penalty			
			9.25 Capital share. No notice, 1 month's penalty			
Barnsley	7.50	9.25	8.75 7 days' notice. No interest penalty			
Bradford and Bingley	7.50	8.50	9.50 2-year termshare—3 months' notice			
Bristol and West	7.50	8.50	9.15 Special investment share/monthly income share			
Britannia	7.50	8.50	8.00 Premium access. On demand, no pen. £1,000+			
Cardiff	9.00	9.10	9.25 High income. 3 months' notice or 90-day pen.			
Catholic	7.50	8.50	8.50 Plus a/c £1,000+. No notice. No penalty.			
Century (Edinburgh)	8.85	—	9.45 £20,000+. 9.20 £3,000+. 8.95 £1,000+. 7-day notice Triple Bonus. Also Monthly Income			
Chester	7.50	5.50	9.80 7 days' notice. 9.15 28 days' notice			
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	5.50	9.50 90 days' notice. Pen. Under £1,000. 7.50: Over, 9.00. 25,000+. 9.38 when monthly int. added			
Citizens Regency	7.75	9.00	9.15 7 days. 9.25 1 month. 9.50 3 months			
City of London (The)	7.75	9.00	9.50 3 months' notice—no penalty—monthly income			
Coveotry	7.50	8.75	9.20 21 days not. im. access for amnts. over £10,000			
Derbyshire	7.50	8.75	9.75 2-year bond £1,000+, close 90 days' notice and monthly, monthly optn. guarantee 100%.			
Gateway	7.50	5.50	9.50 Monthly int. acc. no pen. 8.45 £20,000+-. 9.20 £5,000+-. 8.85 £1,000+ monthly int. optn. 2 y. 3 m. not. with pen. 8.75 no int./m. inc.			
Greenwich	7.50	—	9.00 Grid stnd. £1,000+. No notice. No penalties. Monthly int. £5,000+. 9.38 if added to account to bal.			
Guardian	7.75	—	9.50 90-day a/c: 7-day a/c: 8.75-9.25 subject to bal.			
Halifax	7.50	8.50	9.85 8 months. 9.60 3 months. £1,000 minimum			
Heart of England	7.50	8.75	9.00 28-day Xtra. 7-day notice. no penalty			
Hemel Hempstead	7.75	9.00	9.25 90-day notice. 9.75 5-day notice			
Hendon	8.00	—	9.50 90 days. 9.30 60 days. 9.25 28 days.			
Lambeth	7.65	8.75	9.50 7-d. a/c min. £500. 10.00 3-mth. a/c min. £1,000			
Leamington Spa	7.60	—	9.20 7-d. a/c. 9.50 Magnum a/c 8 wks. + loss of int.			
Leeds and Holbeck	7.50	8.25	9.10 Spa mthly. income. no not. no pen. £5,000 min.			
Leeds Permanent	7.50	8.50	9.65 Supershare. no not. 14 days' pen. £2,000 min.			
Leicester	7.50	8.50	9.00 Monthly interest. 9.25 28 days' notice or pen. neither if £10,000 still in account			
London Permanent	8.00	—	9.75 £200+ im. wdl. no pn. 8.73 comp. 3-y. £2,000+			
Midshire	7.50	—	9.50 6.00 not. or pen. with int. if bal. £10,000+			
Merton	7.50	—	9.50 6.00 not. or pen. with int. if bal. £10,000+			
National Counties	7.50	8.80	9.80 90 days' notice. no penalty. £1,000+			
National and Provincial	7.50	8.50	9.25 90 days' notice. unless bal. stays 10,000+			
Nationwide	7.50	8.50	9.25 90 days' notice. 9.35 28 days' notice as above			
Newcastle	7.50	8.75	9.35 Capital bonds. 3 yrs. 9.00 90 days' notice/penalty			
Northern Rock	7.50	8.75	9.00 Super bonus. 28 days' notice/penalty			
Norwich	7.50	8.75	9.75 Bonus-7. 7 days' notice/penalty			
Peckham	8.25	—	9.00 90 days' notice. 9.00 28 days' notice			
Peterborough	7.50	8.80	9.50 Money spinner plus £20,000 or more			
Portsmouth	7.50	9.25	9.50 Money spinner plus £50,000 or more			
Property Owners	7.65	9.15	9.00 7 days' notice. monthly income option			
Scarborough	7.50	8.75	9.50 Flexi-plus. Minimum £500. No notice. immed. wdl.			
Skipton	7.50	8.75	9.50 2.5-9.75 immed. wdl. if over £2,000. Monthly income			
Stroud	7.50	8.75	9.10 Flexi-plus. Minimum £500. No notice. immed. wdl. 2 months' notice			
Sussex County	7.50	9.00	9.80 3 years. 9.60 90 days. 9.35 30 days. 9.05 7 days			
Sussex Mutual	7.75	9.00	9.15 2.5-9.75 immed. wdl. Under £5,000 7 d. not.			
Thrift	7.60	—	9.60 3-year term. Other accounts available			
Town and Country	7.50	8.50	9.50 9.00 d. not. or pen. No not./pen. if bal. £10,000+			
Wessex	9.35	—	9.00 — No notice—no penalties—minimum invest. £1			
Woolwich	7.50	—	9.00 Monthly increase shares. 28 days' notice			
Yorkshire	7.50	8.50	9.25 Capital. 90 days' notice/penalty			

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.



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PROPERTY

Winds of change in the 'House of Horrors'

BY JUNE FIELD

BURST PIPES, inefficient central heating, condensation between double-glazing panes not to speak of all manner of untraceable draughts have certainly found out the deficiencies of many an ideal home this winter.

The government-sponsored "House of Horrors" at the Ideal Home Exhibition opening at Earl's Court on Tuesday (until March 31) effectively puts over the problems of energy-saving in the home.

In a graphic though light-hearted display designed by Vik Vallance of the Central Office of Information a devastating collection of energy-wasting "monsters" in a simplified model-form are set in a fairground concept.

There in Tankenstein, a three-foot-tall character house eyes reveal water bubbling merrily away inside his unlagged body while steam comes out of his seams, and Dragula a fire-eating creature snorting out smoke in a draughty room.

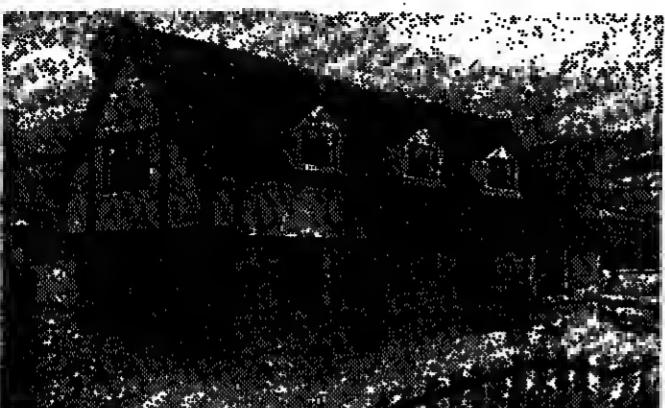
Ghostly gusts waltz through the cracks around doors and windows, and Demons Bill and Demand gloomily tot up the cash as the meters spin round like tops.

The kids will love it, but all this is part of a serious effort by the Energy Efficiency Official (EEO), set up by the government in October 1983. After the horrors (watch out for the hooded monk and the odd bat or two), the hard sell begins with a bumper bundle of useful brochures such as *Make the most of your heating*. This sets out the actual amounts that should be saved on fuel bills when everything is done properly. It is all rather late for this year, but the idea is to get cracking now to alleviate some of next winter's discontent. Those who cannot get to the exhibition should write to the Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London, SW1, for background information.

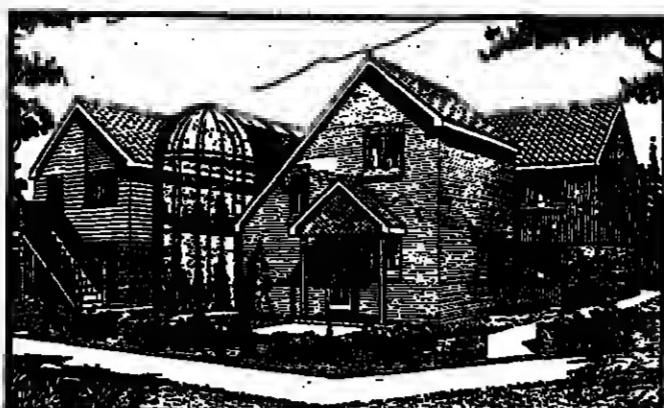
This week too, the Abbey National Building Society launched their Energy Save Service. For new mortgage applicants, part of the valuation report now has a special section where the surveyor advises (at no extra charge) on what measures should be taken to reduce unnecessarily high fuel bills.

Pin-pointed are such items as lagging for hot water cylinder and exposed pipes, loft insulation, fill to external cavity walls,

where secondary or double glazing would be effective especially to north and east-facing windows, and even reminding that



Potton half-timbered farmhouse at the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition



Wimpey Homes' showhouse complex at the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition



Nectar Homes geodesic dome house being built in Surrey, which it is claimed

will save as much as 50 per cent on heating costs. Details 01-660 0011

Surrey, has gone for a Cotswold manor house style in Bradstone, a reconstructed stone which made from moulds taken from natural stone originals, looks a bit of a mess until it weathers.

ASPP managing director John Bailey makes the ambitious claim that the timberframe construction, coupled with Everest double glazing will cut heating costs by half. The company's thatched cottage at last year's exhibition has been a slow seller, but the thatcher, Bob West, has just obtained a contract from Eavis Homes to build four thatched houses in Milton Keynes.

Guide to next week's Ideal Home Exhibition showhouses at Earl's Court:

EXHIBITION GUIDE

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Energy Secretary Peter Walker's recent call for conservation as a major feature of all homes, old and new, is welcome, but with so many bodies involved, surely something could be saved by more co-operation?

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• Charles Church, Camberley, Surrey, is using mellow, knapped flint with a course of red "rubbed" bricks for its Keeper's Cottage. The prototype at Lightwater has just sold for £10,000.

• Costain Homes, builders of the impressive Thames Barrier in 1983, has produced two waterside-style houses complete with port-hole windows and wooden balconies. They are similar to those building at Turner's Quay at Gulliver's Place at Nottingham, at Gulliver's Place in London's Surrey Docks, and those that are planned for a new development at Poole Harbour, Dorset.

• Fenton Timber Engineering Company's offering is a country farmhouse of reclaimed brick and pastel render, with a roof of old terracotta square tiles.

The interior is based on solid timber posts and beams, made possible by the centuries-old frame construction.

• Wimpey Homes features a single bedroom "galleria" home, a two bedroom bungalow, and a four bedroom detached house, in the price range

£16,000 to £100,000.

New Homes

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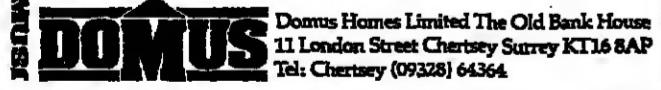
At Woking, Surrey, in the exclusive Hockings Estate, Domus Homes have built four houses in the Sussex Farmhouse style. Set in a beautifully mature location, each house has been cleverly positioned among elegant spots pine to ensure maximum seclusion. All are south or south west facing, most with four reception rooms, five bedrooms, two bathrooms and two shower rooms. One of the reception rooms and a shower room can be separated into an air pair suite. Naturally the kitchen and bathrooms are fully fitted. The units are from the Mapei and Royal Bathroom ranges. Fireplaces are built-in and the surrounds constructed to the purchasers' choice.

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management's side in the spin
of the roulette wheel. Some
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from 50 to 100 players, a faith-
ful clientele of Middle East,
American and European
gamblers, some of whom were
staking the windfall gains they
had made on the world's stock
exchanges.

One of the greatest factors
affecting heat loss in any building
is its shape. The more surface
area a building has, the greater the heat loss. A rectangular
building will tend to trap heat and air in the top
corners, while with a spherical
shape the air will circulate more
easily. So, could you live in
a home that looks like a cross
between an Eskimo igloo and

able for existing borrowers as
well, write to Mr Lunt, Abbey
National Building Society,
United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford
Street, London, W1, or ask
for one at any of their branches.

a flying saucer?

That is what the design of
a new "geodesic dome" is
based on, a form which owes
much to the work of American
architect Richard Buckminster
Fuller (1895-1983). Nectar
Homes, the company that
brought the idea across the
Atlantic, says that building
regulations approval has been
given for the timber-framed
structure which is wholly
factory-made, then assembled
on site. It will cost from about
£80,000 for the three-bedroom
size, twice the cost of the lend-
(Details on a showhouse under

construction from F. G. Dobby,
Nectar Homes, Royal Oak House,
Broughton Road, Purley,
Surrey.)

To keep us warm in the
future, Milton Keynes Develop-
ment Corporation has initiated
an exciting Energy Park to
include a special Energy World
Village. Developers and archi-
tects have been asked to submit
plans for homes for first-
time buyers, and higher-priced
housing, all to achieve a high
degree of energy efficiency.
Building will begin on the 300-
acre site in the autumn of this

year to be finished by the sum-

mer of 1986 in time for the
opening of the Energy World.

A pilot project called HEAT
(Home Energy Audit and
Treatment), was sponsored by
the Department of Energy with

the Anglia Building Society at
the end of last year. There is

an Energy Efficiency Informa-

tion Centre in London in the
Building Centre in Store Street,
W.C. Then there is BRECSU
(Building Research Energy
Conservation Support Unit),
headed by John Britten at Ger-
rington, near Watford, who provide

technical commentaries and an

economic assessment of energy-
saving measures, mainly for
local authorities.

Energy Secretary Peter
Walker's recent call for conser-

vation as a major feature of
all homes, old and new, is

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house, in the price range

£16,000 to £100,000.

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CITY, NW1. The old stable block in back of Victoria Station, NW1, has been converted into a 10-unit residential development.

FRANCE: Rare chance to purchase large plots of land in the Pyrenees, etc. 40 mins. Monaco, 0932 490000.

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CARIBBEAN: CITY, NW1. The old stable block in back of Victoria Station, NW1, has been converted into a 10-unit residential development.

FRANCE: Rare chance to purchase large plots of land in the Pyrenees, etc. 40

TRAVEL

Hotels take notice of chain reactions

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

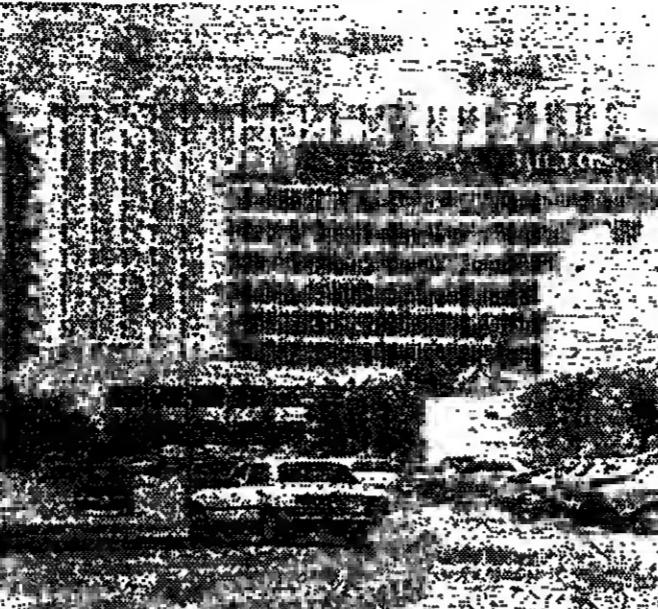
AND NOW for a little day-dreaming. What would you call a hotel which offered: "... 1,500 acres of green hills jutting out into the blue Pacific... stroll through tropically landscaped grounds, down paths which wind through native trees..." Or perhaps this one: "Where subtropical Pacific waters dance on 500 ft of golden sand, while trained dolphins frolic in a tropical lagoon?"

Shall we come down to earth? The first was an Inter-Continental, the second a Hilton, names which to a European audience more usually conjure up pictures of downtown locations, jangling telephones and high rise cement blocks.

The international hotel chains have an image problem. To confess that you actually like an occasional shot of Sherry, THE Holiday Inn or Marriot is akin to admitting a sneaking affection for Bailey's Irish Cream—it is something that you had best keep to yourself in polite society.

The dilemma that the chains face is not an easy one to solve. On the one hand their customers demand a uniformity of standards and service, and yet there is an increasing search for individuality. It need not to recognise instantly that you are in a building which may be in Bangkok but which was patently conceived in Manhattan, and is run by one of those ubiquitous graduates of Swiss hotel schools.

The plain fact is, however, that the chains have not only been adapting to a more adven-



Hilton and Sheraton hotels at Manama, Bahrain . . . the search is for greater individuality.

to-holds on this side of the Atlantic (the Carlton Tower in London or the very pleasant Lakeside Hyatt in Montreux are

Westin, which runs the remarkable Las Brisas hotel in Acapulco where silent hands scatter fresh hibiscus petals on your personal swimming pool each dawn, is even more of a secret.

This is not to say that all chain hotels are wonderful. The new Hyatt Regency in Maui is superb, with its enormous convoluted swimming pool and century-old banyan tree in a cool courtyard, but the Hyatt Manila is avoidable: I would not send friends to the Hilton Hong Kong, but the Hilton Tokyo would be high on my list for a holidaymaker or business visitor to that city.

What they tend to have in common, however, is a very high standard in basics, and

the further one gets from home the more one needs them—taps that produce hot water, towels that are plentiful, fluffy and clean, coffee and good drinking water that comes as a matter of course, and a pleasant feeling that the risks of someone snatching your camera or making off with your travellers' cheques are at least reduced.

A sense of adventure is one thing, a high risk of infectious hepatitis is quite another.

Further information: The London properties of the major hotel groups will provide information concerning all their overseas operations. Westin Hotels is at 7 Conduit Street, London, W1; Mandarin International at 15, New Bridge Street, London, EC4; and Marriott at 80, Regent Street, London, W1. Utell International at Banda House, Hammarmith, London, W6, represents many of the large chains world-wide.

When leisure means learning new skills

THIS MAY not be the week to touch on the sensitive subject of teachers. However, nothing if not thick-skinned, this column must sing their praises well, some of them.

Take the one who tried to broaden my knowledge about computers, for example. She scarcely showed her natural reaction to my cry of "Please Miss." She walked across to my desk as if releasing me from my latest electronic tangle was the one thing she had wanted to do all her life. "Well," Mr. Sandles, "

It eventually emerged that my confusion was caused by an instruction book which was wedged against the Numbers key. "Miss" had more trouble this time distinguishing her green.

Learning while in theory at leisure is a great thing these days. Not only are we concerned about flabby bodies and leaping to acquire the muscular skills of windsurfing and horse-riding, but also our underdeveloped minds.

Computing features strongly on any list. Parents have realised that this is something their children either know about or need to know about and they come along to get to

grips with the basics," I was assured.

The most popular courses are in history, languages, cooking, painting, antiques and (no hints, please), writing.

I would make the same comments about learning holidays this week as I did about activity trips last Saturday—do choose with extreme care, particularly to make sure that the course is of the standard that you require. Some courses, particularly the weekend ones run by hotel groups, are often very much for fun. Everyone there is likely to be interested, but may not be deeply enthusiastic. A few people may be simply along for the bean.

At the other end of the scale I find it difficult to believe that many people go to the Earley Concours in Sussex, perhaps the most active of the residential adult educational centres in Britain, just for a giggle. Earley charges just over £200 for a residential week plus meals, and offers an extremely wide range.

Galleon Travel (52, High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent) is probably the known name in the painting course lists, but Eurocentres also offer a large number of courses in Europe,

they are not alone. Saga (see your travel agent), for example, do painting trips for the over 60s to St Ives in Cornwall for upwards of £108 for a week.

Saga also offers study weeks on antiques, a rich field for research for potential holidaymakers. The menu here includes antique restoration weekends at Hazel Tree Farm (Hastingleigh, Kent), porcelain collectors' weekends at Warne's Hotel, Worthing, antique initiation courses at Ladbrooke's hotel in Bracknell, London, Oxford and Wetherby and visits to auctions and antiques markets with guidance from Stowe Court (Stowe, Nr. St. Briavels, Lydney, Glos.).

Language learning within Britain is, of course, a pleasure, but I suspect that learning, or improving, is greater fun in the country concerned. Educational Tours Abroad (77a George Street, Croydon) operates a series of courses in France, Germany, Spain and Italy. Many of the courses are, however, aimed at younger people and you should read the age brackets mentioned with great care.

Eurocentres also offer a large number of courses in Europe, and wonder why so many Europeans come to Britain to learn English while the British tend to stay within the UK to learn foreign languages. You can contact Eurocentres through

1, 21 Meadowcourt Road, London SE3 9EU.

For basic—or perhaps Basic—information about learning holidays in England, however, I can do no better than to recommend the same small volume as was mentioned last week: Activity and Hobby Holidays, England 1985, from bookstalls £1.25.

Arthur Sandles

MOToring

So fast—but so refined

BY STUART MARSHALL

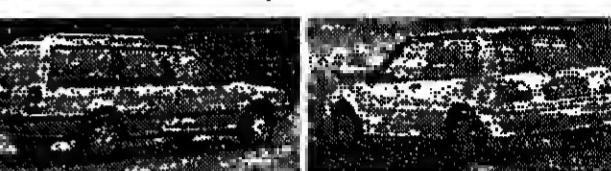
IF YOU WANT to make Burkard Bovenspien, a jovial Bavarian lover of fast cars and fine wines, bristle, you will refer to the 500 Alpinas he creates each year as conversions.

"We are not converters; we are a motor manufacturer. Small maybe, but still a manufacturer," he says. True, he uses mainly BMW-supplied components and an Alpina, to all but a knowledgeable eye, looks like an off-the-peg BMW. But, even by BMW's standards, Alpina goes up.

Alpina's remain full four- or five-seat saloons which are no longer fit in the back.

THERE is a flourishing export market to Japan, where a real fancy foreign car with ultra-high performance potential is trendy among the well-heeled.

With its M535i and M635CSi models, BMW now has cars in its range that are faster than the "cooking" 535i and 635i. Might this not mean that buyers would go for these instead of the Alpina? "You might think so," said Herr Bovenspien. "But, even though they would be locked up if they tried to explore it on public roads. Although they drive on the left in Japan as we do, Alpina buyers insist on left-hand steering. Just as no one will be unaware that a grown-up 'special,' said Herr Bovenspien, with the air of man laughing all the way to the bank.



The Montego Vanden Plas (left) and the Corolla GT.

Speed and luxury

BUYERS of hot hatchbacks and luxury estate cars will welcome announcements of new models by Toyota and BL's Austin-Rover group this week. The Toyota Corolla GT is powered by the peerless four-cylinder, 16-valve engine first seen in the rear-wheel drive GT and due to go in the Lotus X-100 two-seat sports car in the autumn of next year. This 119 hp at 6,600 rpm 1.3-litre engine is a dazzler. It pulls unmercifully at 30 mph in fifth and feels only enjoyably hard working at 7,000 rpm.

The same engine and silky five-speed transmission also go into the mid-engined Toyota MR2, previewed at the Birmingham motor show last October and soon to be released here. The rear-drive Corolla GT Coupe continues to be available, mainly for motor sport enthusiasts and amateur rallyists who don't feel at home in a front-drive car.

On some twisting cobbled hills in Portugal recently, the new Corolla GT showed crisp handling, vivid acceleration and the well-mannered virility that made the original VW Golf GTI such a cult car.

Complete with an electric sunroof, 60 series tyres on alloy wheels, radio/stereo cassette player and belts for all five

occupants, the Corolla GT costs £7,000. And that, Vanden Plas will not be pleased to note, nearly £1,000 less than the latest GTI.

The Montego Vanden Plas seats up to seven (the occasional rear facing seats are standard) and is pitched buyers who don't reckon fill an estate with bales of straw and bags of manure. This £10,220 newcomer has the two-litre, fuel-injected engine as far seen only in the Montego/Maestro EFI with a slight wider-ratio five-speed gearbox.

Top speed is said to be 1 mph, with a 0.60 mph acceleration of 9.5 seconds and more importantly, pick-up from 30-50 mph in just over nine seconds.

I have not yet driven the Vanden Plas estate though, the normal Montego estate one of the best cars BL's current line-up. The Vanden Plas is also available as a saloon with fuel injection or carburetted engines—but an integral roofrack, see levelling rear suspension, electric windows and electrically adjustable and heated exterior mirrors. The alloy wheels are shod with low profile TD tyres which won't come off the rim after a high speed deflation and have limited run-on capability.

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BOOKS

Charlie bobs up again

BY NIGEL ANDREWS

Chaplin: His Life and Art
by David Robinson. Collins.
£15.00. 782 pages

There are at least as many Charlie Chaplins as there have been books written about him; and those, David Robinson assures us in his mammoth biography, run to several hundred. There is the slapstick Chaplin, the satirical Chaplin, the sentimental Chaplin, the "communist" Chaplin... how can any biography, even of 700 pages plus appendices, embrace all these faces? And how much can new revelations about Chaplin, ferreted forth by Robinson from Hollywood vaults, FBI files and the generosity of Lady Chaplin in unearthing private documents and working papers, tell us that we don't already know about the man and the artist?

The book's answer is, plenty. This is one of those addictive biographies in which you start by looking in the index for items that interest you, then find that each item has a knock-on effect into the next, and as down breaks you're reading the book from cover to cover.

Robinson makes little attempt to "sell" Chaplin to us: his is a work of history rather than of critical evangelism. But it's fleshed out with rich Dickensian detail—an apt attribute since Chaplin's South London childhood was adorned with a mother whose eccentricity turned into certified madness (she spent several months in asylums) and with spells on the Music-hall stage which were preceeded by less auspicious spells in local workhouses.

Robinson has dug up the original LCC records of these sojourns; and he has also accrued the turn-of-the-century playbills and posters to give us a virtually complete theatrical history of our hero and family, from Mum's success as the "Charming Little Chanteuse" to sonny's triumph in everything from *Jimmy the Fearless*, or *The Boy Ero to Sherlock Holmes*.

(Not, we hasten to add, as Holmes.)

Soon Chaplin was making the legendary transatlantic leap to Hollywood and we swing into an immaculately researched run through the production vicissitudes, the scarcely less regular marriages and divorces, and the growing murmur of American

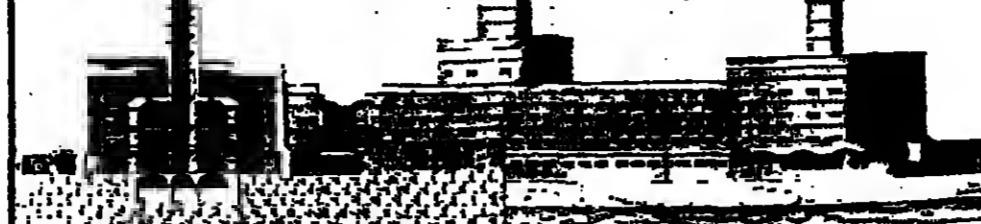
disaffection over Chaplin's "politics".

If there is a weakness in the book, it is Robinson's limitless tolerance of his not-always-admirable hero and—dare one say it?—his gullibility to the pathetic touch.

I find it hard to swallow hook, line and snipe, the director Robert Florey's "haunting" memoir of Chaplin as a waif-like figure seen walking alone one evening on Sunset Boulevard. This anecdote, which Robinson repeats in full, has everything from a cold December night, to a stray dog whom Chaplin befriends, to a dinner invitation casually, enigmatically thrown out to Florey. It's a scene that might have been created by Chaplin himself to the accompaniment of a surging violin theme.

In addition to giving other people's sentimentalities the nod, Robinson sometimes perpetrates his own. During the last dying week of Chaplin's mother, the star visited her every day and "forced himself to joke with her." Now where does Robinson get this Pagliacci touch from? Only, apparently, from a report that the day before she died, the nurses "heard them laughing together." The result is a piece of speculative editorialising, which helps to boost a view of Chaplin as Mr Wonderful off-screen as well as on.

One resents such touches only because the standard of scholarship elsewhere is so high. The author gives chapter and verse for nearly all his sources, and



Drawing of a coastal tower by Montalembert in his controversial treatise, "Fortification Perpendiculaire." It is one of the illustrations in "The Fortress in the Age of Vauban and Frederick the Great, 1660-1760" by Christopher Duffy. This book is volume two in Mr Duffy's fascinating and well-researched history of siege warfare. It is published on Thursday (Routledge, £30.00)

Solzhenitsyn—a case of flawed greatness

BY ERIK DE MAUNY

Solzhenitsyn
by Michael Scammell.
Hutchinson, £18.00. 1051 pages

It is inevitable that any biography of Alexander Solzhenitsyn is likely to arouse controversy, and Michael Scammell's weighty examination of the master's life and work is clearly no exception to that rule. It is also apparent from the opening chapter onwards that this is a major achievement, cool, deep and immensely detailed.

At the same time, despite all the diligent research behind it, this biography still provokes certain nagging doubts. To take Solzhenitsyn first: I do not think he can be placed on the same level as Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, with whom he has been compared, and, if he has won a secure place for himself in 20th century literature, that is partly for extra-literary reasons. He is a great writer, nonetheless, not least in his heroic effort to reveal the truth about the hideous sufferings inflicted on his country by the Communist regime, behind its habitual smoke-screen of lies and deceit.

The biography itself arouses other doubts, because of the peculiar circumstances of its composition. In the opening stages, the author was able freely to consult Solzhenitsyn, both by letter and during a week he spent at Solzhenitsyn's carefully guarded retreat in Vermont. But in 1979 that co-operation was suddenly withdrawn.

Then, in 1982, Mr Scammell received word from Solzhenitsyn's wife, Natalia Reshetnitskaya, in Moscow, that she had heard his book was in preparation and offering to help. She had already compiled her own account of her difficult relationship with Solzhenitsyn (they were married young, divorced while he was a political prisoner, and married a second time when he was released from exile), and she now produced a spate of new material. It has been suggested that she did so at the prompting of the KGB.

In any case, it is inevitably from her vantage point that this sorry tale is told, right up to the final collapse of the marriage in a welter of recriminations, and Solzhenitsyn's marriage to his present wife, Natalia Svetlova.

This episode forms a central part of the biography, but it is not, of course, the whole of it, which is at its best in describing Solzhenitsyn's long struggle to find his true creative path. He had begun writing as a boy, and writing increasingly became the dominant passion in his life. In adolescence, he became an ardent Communist, and, given his general brilliance, could no doubt have aspired to a successful career in the party apparatus. Then came the war against Germany. Solzhenitsyn joined up, fought bravely, rose fairly swiftly to the rank of captain in the artillery, and then, almost lightly heartedly, started a correspondence with an old school friend, also in the army, in which they both agreed that Stalin's Russia left much to be desired, and proposing a new "Leninist" programme of their own. The correspondence was discovered, Solzhenitsyn was arrested, and made his entry into the terrible world of the forced labour camps that he was later to describe in the *Gulag Archipelago*.

It was, however, a Day in the *Life of Ivan Denisovich*, written after his return from exile, that first brought him fame. Tvardovsky, the brilliant

Erik de Mouny was the BBC's Moscow Correspondent from 1963-65 and from 1972-74.

Some readers may be put off by the sheer bulk of this biography. They should not be. It is a gripping picture, both of a prophetic figure and of the totalitarian society which rejected him for telling the truth about it that it cannot bear to face.

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HOW TO SPEND IT

For your eyes only



IT IS just 18 months since Steven Isaacs opened his first shop, For Eyes at 16, High Holborn, London WC1 and brought about a revolution in the way that spectacles are bought and sold.

If you were one of the 2 in 5 of the population who was wearing glasses at the time you'll remember only too clearly what it was like. First, you had to book an appointment with a qualified optician, which had all the overtones of a gloomy medical encounter. If you could only go in the lunch-hour you might have had to wait (as I did) at least a fortnight before they were ready.

Steven Isaacs changed all that. He made buying specs easy, fast, and above all, fun. Anybody can walk off the street into any one of the 11 branches of For Eyes he now owns and have the free eye examination by a qualified optician that we are all entitled to once a year under the NHS there and then. If you already have a pair of glasses, and want another like it, you needn't even have another eye test—the glasses are simply slotted into a machine which analyses the prescription and lenses can be ground and fitted to match it on the spot.

Whether you decide to choose glasses or contact lenses you can nearly always be sure of walking out of the shop clutching your new set the very same day and usually it can all be done while you wait.

Steven Isaacs believes in making everything crystal-clear to the customer. Large notices round the shop tell him everything he needs to know. Every frame on display has a price tag attached to it and this is the total price the customer will pay for the frame and for single vision plastic lenses and tinting.

The range of frames his shop stock is immense and so colourful as to make spectacle buying seem like an adventure. There's everything on display from the sedate and discreet to the outrageously diamanté-decked. There are glasses for the blue-stocking set, frames for the extroverts, colourful ones if you want to match every outfit and the latest, most sought-after frames for the fashion-conscious (thin tortoise-shell frames, second from bottom in our sketch right, are currently very modish).

For those who like the confidence of big names there are

Specs don't need to be dreary... you can look quizzical like Mrs T... or scholarly like Kenny Everett...

designer ranges by houses like Dior, Nina Ricci, Porsche, Oliver Goldsmith or Versace.

Rayban glasses are still very popular and mirrored sunglasses are the coming thing for the sunnier.

The public seems to have greeted Steven Isaacs arrival with something akin to rapture, with men as well as women treating the whole business of buying their specs as a much more confidence-boosting experience than ever it was before. Men, it seems, are becoming braver, buying more specs and becoming less shy about admitting that they too would like some flattering shapes and colours.

When from April 1st only children up to the age of 16 (or 19 if in full-time education) and those on supplementary benefit will be entitled to subsidised NHS glasses (model: if you want a pair get them NOW) we see a large sector of the spectacle-buying public being thrown on the open market. This is why this week he is raising more money on the Over The Counter Market to finance the opening of more For Eyes shops in the provinces.

That's all very well, I hear you say, but what about prices?

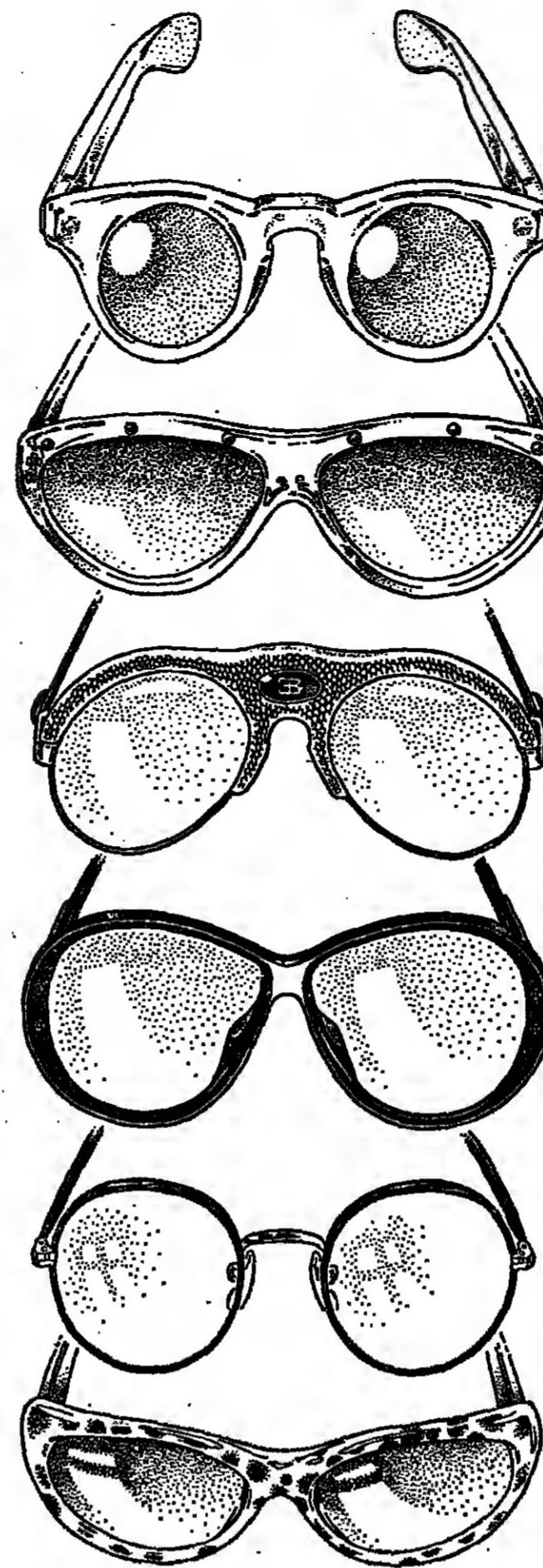
Steven Isaacs claims that to begin with his prices were about 15 per cent to 20 per cent lower than his rivals but that since his arrival they have dropped their prices to match. Whereas most NHS specs seem to cost somewhere between £10.55 (the cheapest) and £30. For Eyes' cheapest pair is £24.95 but most of the frames I would have liked were somewhere between £35 and £60.

Needless to say, his activities haven't endeared him to the optical establishment who are wont to wring their hands and winge on about the "commercialisation of optics."

If commercialisation means that I can walk into a shop this morning, have a proper, thoroughly professional eye test, and walk out with a pair of glasses or contact lenses the same day, then I'm all for it.

As far as I'm concerned it's a big improvement on what went on before.

For those who like the confidence of big names there are



A selection of frames from For Eyes. Listed from top to bottom, prices for optical glasses include single vision lens and tinting, with the sunglasses prescription lenses are extra. Linda Farrow acetate sunglasses in a wide range of colours, including fluorescent pink, £22.50.

Paola Bovesi sunglasses, again in many colours, £75. Bugatti racing sunglasses.

with leather look-alike trim, £145. Optyl frames by Christian Dior, £51. Thin wire-like tortoise-shell coloured frames by Anglo-American, £54.50. Leopard pattern sunglasses by Oliver Goldsmith, £35.

For Eyes branches are at:

- 21 James Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.
- 32 St Annes Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
- 138 Sloane Street, Knightsbridge, London SW1.
- 82 Putney High Street, London SW16.
- 158 Savile Row, London W1.
- 10 High Holborn, London WC1.
- 57a Golders Green Road, London NW11.
- 21 Cheshire, London EC2.
- 65 The Strand, London WC2.
- 39 Edgware Road, London W2.
- 15a Railway Street, Hartford, Herts.

... or theatrically over-the-top like Dame Edna

BRIDGE

EPC COTTER

IN TODAY'S two hands both declarers went down, because they failed to see any way of safeguarding their contracts. Here is the first hand from a rubber:

N	E
♦J 10 8 4	♦K 6 4 2
♦Q 10 2	♦A J 6
♦A K 9	♦9 8 3
♦5	♦A K 9 7 4
W	S
♦10 5 7 5 3	♦K 6 4 2
♦9 5 3	♦A J 6
♦8 7 6 4	♦9 3
♦5	♦A 10 8 2
S	E
♦A Q 9	♦K 4
♦K 7 2	♦A Q
♦A K 5	♦3
♦J 6 3	♦K J 9 8 4

South dealt with both sides vulnerable, and bid one no trump. North introduced a Stayman two clubs, and learning from his partner's response of two diamonds that he had no four-card major, settled for a raise to three no trumps.

West led the spade five, covered by Knave, King and Ace—to hold up would be a serious error. At trick two South led the club three to the Queen and Ace. East returned the two of spades. South won, and proceeded to run off his minor suit winners, but he ended up one trick short of contract, as East still had the clubs held.

Expert technique lands the contract. At trick two South leads the diamond five to dummy's ten, and returns the four of clubs. If East plays his Ace, he gives declarer four tricks in the suit, so he ducks. When his Knave holds, the declarer crosses to the diamond Queen, and returns the four of clubs. Once again, East must duck—otherwise he gives away two tricks in the suit—and declarer wins. Now declarer

If West holds the cinc, Ace and wins, he cannot continue spades with advantage; if West wins with the heart Ace, and returns a heart, South takes with the Queen in dummy, and leads the club King, to set up his ninth trick.

N
♦K 8 7 3
♦K 10 2
♦Q 5
♦A Q 10 3

W
♦A 5
♦K 8 7 4
♦K 10 8 4 3
♦4 2

S
♦Q J 9 8 2
♦A Q
♦3
♦K J 9 8 4

E
♦K 6 4 2
♦A J 6
♦9 8 3
♦A 10 8 2

South dealt with East-West vulnerable, and bid one club overcalled with one diamond. North raised to three clubs, East said three diamonds, and South rebid three spades. This was raised to four spades by North, and all passed.

West led the club two, an obvious singleton, taken with the Ace, and declarer returned a spade from the table. This was taken by the Ace, and West returned a diamond to his partner's Ace, and ruffed the club return. Then the spade King defeated the contract.

The declarer felt frustrated. He saw the impending ruff, but with no entry to dummy could not cash three hearts and discard his losing diamond.

Richard Holmes is at 1 Baronsmead Road, Barnes, London SW13, telephone 01-748 6816.

South could have done the next best thing. At trick two, he should cash the heart Ace, overtake the Queen with dummy's King, and return the ten, on which he discards his diamond three. As West has the Knave, he has to win the trick, and the defence can make just two trump tricks.

This play, originally called "The Coup Without a Name," is now known as the Scissors Committee. It cuts the enemy lines of communication. Of course, East holds the heart Knave, if you'd like to learn how to master these intricate matters and want to do it in your own time, the winning of the 14th

RICKETY TABLES, unsafe chairs and worm-eaten sideboards don't induce gloom in Richard Holmes, says JUDY WHALE: he's a former architect who now repairs and restores furniture in Barnes, south-west London. He turned to professional woodworking a few years ago, and runs a one-man firm, Chair Man. As the name implies he specialises in chairs, but will happily accept other salling pieces.

If commercialisation means that I can walk into a shop this morning, have a proper, thoroughly professional eye test, and walk out with a pair of glasses or contact lenses the same day, then I'm all for it.

Tickets for either event can be obtained from Save the Children Fund, 17, Grove Lane, London SES.

As to the fashion, what will be on show will be a range of top designer names like Jean Moir, Hardy Amies, Murray Arbed, Tom Gilley, Paul Costelloe as well as clothes from such established retailers as Burberry, Aquascutum, Jaeger and Marks and Spencer. In other words, as Peter Randle, director of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council put it, "what we will see in the fashion show is the core of the most effective exporters in this country."

THE WHOLE fashion in curtains and blinds has changed dramatically in recent years with houses that once sported restrained pelmets and curtains or clean, streamlined blinds now awash with ribbons and bows, with drapes and elaborate swags. Not surprisingly, all those who became accustomed to making up their own simple curtainings and straight-up-and-down blinds find themselves less adept when it comes to the newer fashions.

If you'd like to learn how to master these intricate matters and want to do it in your own time, the winning of the 14th

POSTSCRIPT

tion in the Crypt of the Guildhall, followed by a fashion presentation in the Great Hall (in the presence of Princess Anne) followed by dinner at 9.30 pm in the Old Library at 21 Cheyne Walk, London EC2.

If £50 is more than you feel like spending there is a matinee dress rehearsal, also at the Guildhall at 2.30 pm for which the tickets are £10 each.

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READERS WHO are fond of Florentine and Bargello embroidery but aren't perhaps as expert as they'd like to be, might like to know about Jean Roberts' tapestry kits. Hers differ from others on the market in that one corner of the tapestry is fully worked by hand so that the whole design becomes infinitely easier to follow. As with most kits, everything is supplied from the canvas to the necessary wools and needle.

Those who are just beginners might like to start with one of the smaller canvases—something like 6in square—while old-hands could tackle cushion covers, chair backs or seats.

Jean Roberts' starter kits are to be found in most good embroidery shops as well as in Peter Jones and some branches of the John Lewis Partnership.

Scenes from

City life

HARRIET BRIGDALE is an artist who seems to have a special following amongst city folk—her own whimsical torch is no doubt a soothing antidote to worries about whether the pound is steady or the index is going up or down. She is probably most famous for her charming anthropomorphic animals, (I am particularly fond of her sheep myself) but no doubt to please her city fans there is now a series of elephant bankers, sheep clerks and bear stockbrokers all depicted going about their city business.

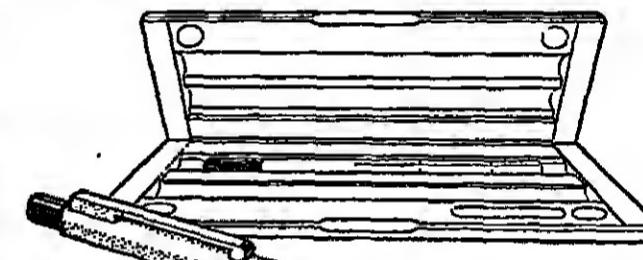
She works in miniature and the etchings reproduced here are tiny, measuring roughly some 2½ ins by 3 ins for the image alone. Graffiti, a gallery that specialises in miniatures, always has a large selection of Harriet Brigdale's work and city fans might like to know that Graffiti now has two branches—one at Blackfriars, Earham Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 and another at 11, Mason's Avenue, Coleman Street, London EC2.

The two Brigdale etchings shown here are in pale pink, grey and green and "Buying and Selling" and "No Comment" are each £16.10p. Also in the series are "City Gent" and "For Someone Special" at £13.80 each. The gallery in Earham Street is open from Monday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm, while the City branch is just open on Mondays to Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm.

by Lucia van der Post



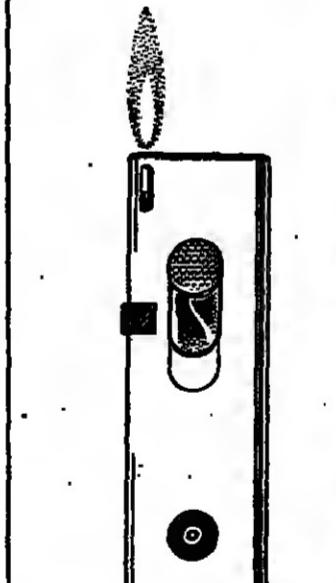
Slim-line chic



Frank Wheeler

Black, it seems, is beautiful. A look around that immensely chic establishment, Joseph's, at 16, Sloane Street, London SW1 immediately reveals that of the select group of objects that have passed through the very discerning sieve of Joseph Etchedgui's taste, some 80 per cent are pure matt black (and if you're curious about the rest, they tend to be either transparent or chrome). Black, when fashioned so impeccably, when displayed in such a disciplined, ordered way, makes gold and silver seem flashy and out-of-date.

As much in love with pure matt black as Joseph Etchedgui is Ferdinand Porsche, a breakaway member of the car family who now runs the design studio that produces a steady flow of infinitely desirable and infinitely expensive "accessories." Part



Frank Wheeler

TWO KEY DATES FOR THE MOTORING WORLD

4th to 12th May 1985

- Cars.
- Motor homes.
- Lorries commercial vehicles, industrial vehicles, special transport vehicles and car washers.
- Coaches, buses and minibuses.
- Parts, components and accessories.
- Bicycles, mo-peds, motor cycles.
- Garage, repair shop and service equipment.
- Lubricants. • Competition section.

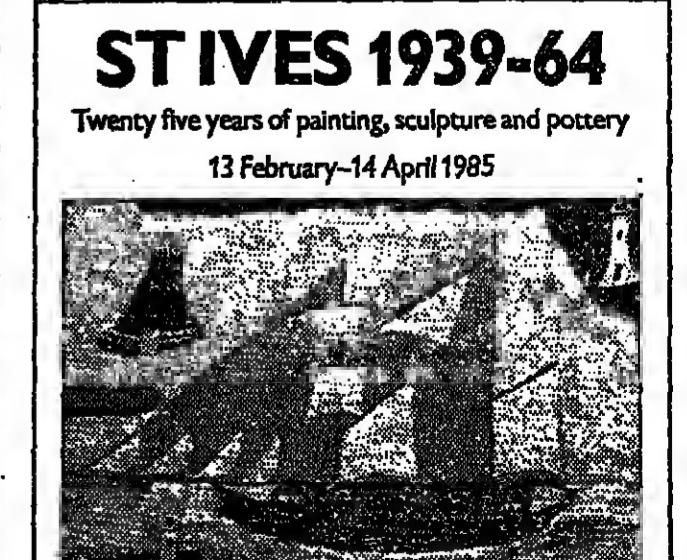
April 26th to May 1st 1985

- All spheres connected with integrated transportation and the automobile industry.
- The spare parts, component parts and accessory industry.
- Equipment for garages, work shops, casting, forging, etc.
- Bicycles, mo-peds, motor cycles, and everything connected with the manufacture and marketing of

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Clare Brooks

point or a fine liner for exact lettering. It is £90.

The lighter, so slim and fine (just 5mm in depth) one wonders how it encases the necessary mechanics, is £75.

Both are sold from Porsche boutiques at Harvey Nichols, Hepworth, and Harrods in London, from leading jewellers and from Porsche car centres throughout the UK.

Finally, a joker variation on the matt black theme—the Tank Boy lighter with Super-Star written on the side, costs just £13 and is available from Astrohome, 47-49, Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.

Tate Gallery

Millbank London SW1

Administration £1.50 Monday-Saturday 10-5.30 Sunday 2-5.30 Closed 5 April Recorded information 01-821 728

LEISURE

Ancient glass breaks the auction barriers

INVESTMENT IN ART

ANTONY THORNCROFT



Beaker, probably from Syria, 1st century AD

THERE ARE still, thankfully, many sectors of the fine art market where the specialist collector dominates and the hard-headed investor hesitates to infiltrate. One such is ancient glass. On Tuesday and Wednesday Christie's is selling the collection of glass assembled over the past 40 years by Ernest Kofler and his wife Marthe Truniger. The 348 lots represent the most comprehensive collection of ancient glass ever to appear on the market.

But the saleroom will be filled with informed experts, specialist dealers and museums. The clever men who follow the indices, and know that antiques will, in the main, sit this one out, bemused by the knowledge needed to purchase with confidence.

Christie's itself faced some problems. Most glass collectors buy later European items. Could they be persuaded to expand into glass dating from the Egypt of the 14th century BC, only a hundred years or so earlier? glass is reckoned to have first appeared in the Near East, and the succeeding 2,000 years? On the other hand would collectors of antiquities be interested in ancient glass?

WE ARE all too aware that the European Community encompasses a physically hidden but financially all too obvious wine lake. It accounts for approaching one-fifth of total annual production in the member countries. The rivers of wine that flow into it come largely from Italy and France, although recently Germany has contributed a tributary. A good deal of steam is emitted from the lake as the wine is distilled (over 20m hl in 1983-84) into industrial alcohol of which there appears no great shortage anyway.

But what is going to happen when Spain and Portugal join the Community next year? Soothing words may have been uttered recently by EEC ministers, and no doubt some phasing-in period will be provided in which the two newcomers will have limited access to the market. During this period, it will be hoped that the two countries will modify and modernise their wine industries and so improve them by reducing the vineyard area, and by raising quality to make them more attractive to consumers abroad rather than raising the level of the wine tax. No doubt they will try

to do this, and there is not much of a problem for Portugal.

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the accession of these two countries will add to the Community's and perhaps the world's wine problems. Very useful, therefore, is Roger Penning-Roswell's recently published survey, *The European Wine Industry*, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit, 85 pages. All the statistics quoted here are from his report.

Over-production is normally confined to Italy and France, the world's largest producers. It is easy to suggest that vines should be grubbed up on a large scale in the Midi and southern Italy and Sicily, and the EEC is doing its best in this way, but vines are often grown, where no other crop is viable, so it is a socio-political problem as well as a wine one. Unfortunately, world wine consumption is falling rather than rising; for the rise in the UK, northern Europe, some Third World countries and the US, has been more than offset by the drop in the two major producer countries.

In the Community, per capita consumption fell between 1979 and 1982 by 7

per cent and it is still falling.

French consumption has dropped from 92 to 85 litres, and Italian from 88 to 83.

It is indeed on the performance of their exports that the producing countries must rely.

We claret drinkers may buy and consume more from Bordeaux in the light of a good vintage, but one cannot expect the people of Tuscany to take in more Chianti after a good year. They are doing their bit already.

France leads the export field for quality wines; whereas a great deal of Italian wines are sold in bulk to France for blending in the Midi, and to the Soviet Union at very low prices.

All eyes, including the Germans, are on North America, although their Eurobonds of mainly Italian wine mixed with a little German, are likely to damage their reputation there as in the UK. The Italians' large total of 2.7m hl exported to the US in 1982 - compared with France's 905,000 hl - is somewhat downgraded in quality owing to the

predominance of Lambrusco. The Italian wine image is low in America; and in Britain it is too much regarded as a low-price quaffing wine.

Since it seems unlikely that in the reasonably near future world consumption can be increased to match production of around 350m hl a year, what can be done to reduce output while taking into account the considerable social implications?

Unfortunately France and Italy do not really agree on how to do this. *Vin de table* is the real problem, and the French believe in improving its quality, partly as *vin de pays*, partly by encouraging higher technical standards, largely through the co-operatives that can afford such equipment as stainless steel vats. They have succeeded in reducing the output of plain *vin de table* from

62 per cent of total production in 1973 to 44 per cent in 1983.

The AOC system of controlled production and yield is aimed at maintaining fairly stable output, but in itself does not. Nearly all Bordeaux appellations were allowed a rise in permitted yield from the 1983 vintage onwards. AOC stocks are rising, from 33 per cent of the total in 1973 to 46 per cent in 1983.

The Italians, whose DOC system on the French lines was introduced in 1965, take a more free-market view, and while working hard to improve quality, and supporting distillation of surpluses, tend to leave it all to the regions. High quality should lead to lower output, but so far there is no decline in land under vines, perhaps the reverse.

The encouraging side of the European wine industry position today for us consumers is that quality is definitely rising. Peasant-made red wines are growing less alcoholic and tough, dry white wines much fresher, especially in Italy.



Inlay royal head, ancient Egyptian, £20,000-£40,000

there is no Islamic glass to excite the Arabs but the fact that many items were made in Israel might encourage buyers from there.

Because this is not a speculative, or strong investment, sector of the art market Christie's is putting a cautious forecast of up to £1.5m on the sale. The strength of the dollar should encourage American buyers, and museums, and the Japanese might show again the interest in glass they revealed a decade ago. But the majority of bids should come from continental. Unfortunately

Guide to fair deals

BOOK COLLECTING

WILLIAM ST. CLAIR

open already reflects to some extent the expected balance of supply and demand. But fortunately for the collector the selling of old books does not approach the conditions of a perfect market so beloved by economists. With thousands of volumes on display there can be no simultaneous access.

Another obstacle to perfect information is the lighting. The designers of hotel ballrooms and provincial arts centres have appreciated that it would be too depressing to be able to see everything clearly, to which the rooms would be put. Keen bibliophiles have felt like hallet dancers and necks like swans from long practice standing on tiptoe craning at dimly lit shelves. One man to be seen at the fairs wears a large flashlight.

The main fairs in London normally take place in Bloomsbury, where on Sunday mornings you can find gangs of shivering unemployed tourists wandering about aimlessly waiting for the British Museum to open. The PBSA fair is held on the second weekend of every month at the Hotel Russell in Russell Square on Sunday afternoons and all day Monday. Another group of dealers now holds a rival fair on the same Mondays as PBSA at the Bedford Hotel in Southampton Row, a couple of hundred yards away.

These two organisations claim a certain exclusivity which you may or may not consider is reflected in the standard of the books. A different business approach is evident at the Bonnington Fair, arranged by the enterprising Barry Higgs at 7 Park Road, Totnes, Devon, which is held on the last Sunday of every month (except for June) in the Bonnington Hotel, also in Southampton Row, at the corner of Russell Square.

The Bonnington claims that prices range from 10p to £1,000 and there are items on offer which seem to me to be overpriced at the former figure. The point is that any book which may be saleable has a last chance to survive. Everyone is welcome, whether dealer or amateur, so if you have inherited a loft full of mixed books from your great-aunt and you fancy yourself as a small businessman, you should rent a stall for the day from Mr Higgs and try your luck.

Eight-day wonder

SOCCER

TREVOR BAILEY

Goodison Park in Quarter Final next Saturday.

Fortunately for Ipswich, one of football's great attractions is its ability to destroy logic, which is underlined by their performances in both tournaments, which is in complete contrast to their indifferent form in the League. Even with a small squad and few top-quality players, they have a chance to spring a surprise.

This year's League and Cup programme produces another Cinderella - Ipswich Town. They face the most demanding and important eight days in their history, starting with their League match against Chelsea at Portman Road today.

At the end of this period the club could be in the Milk Cup Final, the semi-final of the FA Cup and have earned two valuable points in their struggle to avoid relegation. Alternatively and rather more logically, their dreams of two Wembley appearances in one season could be over and they could be living one from bottom in the First Division and heading for the Second.

Can Ipswich get to the final this time? Well, even teams with the class and the depth of Manchester United, Spurs and Liverpool would consider the programme daunting.

Bobby Ferguson's players have to beat Chelsea this afternoon, knock Sheffield Wednesday, currently performing with great spirit, out of the FA Cup on Monday, overcome Norwich in the away leg of the Milk Cup semi-final on Wednesday and then defeat Everton, the FA Cup bidders, and probably the finest side in the land, at

watching them in the first leg of the Milk Cup semi-final last Saturday, it was hard to understand why they are in the relegation zone. They not only looked superior to Norwich, but with better finishing they could have begun the second leg with a three, instead of merely a one goal advantage.

Their inability to score sufficient goals helps to explain the lowly position in the League table, though young D'Avray showed considerable promise as a centre-forward, while his partner up front, Gates, who was back after injury, might be even more effective if he spent a little less time protesting to the referee.

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More than a few ripples in the lake

WINE

EDMUND PENNING-ROWSELL

IN 1844 the Post Office Commissioners decided to appoint an officer to supervise investigations into the growing number of thefts from the mails. It was, they agreed, "a duty not only unpopular but one for which it is very difficult to find an officer possessed of the necessary assets of zeal, tact, patience, coolness and decision."

Fortunately they found Walter Robinson Sculthorpe. For 15 years he was to prove indefatigable in the pursuit of crime, bringing to book no less than 202 cases. In his day he was a well-known London figure: his "detective acumen" even earned a mention in *Punch*. Yet this colourfully fore-runner of Sherlock Holmes might have remained quite forgotten but for the reappearance after a century after his death, of his personal journal of adventures in the fight against crime.

Sculthorpe's journals turn up, rather unexpectedly, among the Penny Blacks and Cape Triangulars of a Sotheby postage stamp auction on March 14. They consist of two small octavo notebooks, neatly bound in leather. A manuscript title page announces "A list of Dishonest Persons detected in the London District Branch General Post Office since 1844".

On the back cover of the first notebook is written "Mr W. R. Sculthorpe".

Conceding defeat, but if? 37 RxN, Q-N2? 38 R-N1, Q-N2? 39 K-N2? 40 K-N2? 41 K-N2? 42 K-N2? 43 K-N2? 44 K-N2? 45 K-N2? 46 K-N2? 47 K-N2? 48 K-N2? 49 K-N2? 50 K-N2? 51 K-N2? 52 K-N2? 53 K-N2? 54 K-N2? 55 K-N2? 56 K-N2? 57 K-N2? 58 K-N2? 59 K-N2? 60 K-N2? 61 K-N2? 62 K-N2? 63 K-N2? 64 K-N2? 65 K-N2? 66 K-N2? 67 K-N2? 68 K-N2? 69 K-N2? 70 K-N2? 71 K-N2? 72 K-N2? 73 K-N2? 74 K-N2? 75 K-N2? 76 K-N2? 77 K-N2? 78 K-N2? 79 K-N2? 80 K-N2? 81 K-N2? 82 K-N2? 83 K-N2? 84 K-N2? 85 K-N2? 86 K-N2? 87 K-N2? 88 K-N2? 89 K-N2? 90 K-N2? 91 K-N2? 92 K-N2? 93 K-N2? 94 K-N2? 95 K-N2? 96 K-N2? 97 K-N2? 98 K-N2? 99 K-N2? 100 K-N2? 101 K-N2? 102 K-N2? 103 K-N2? 104 K-N2? 105 K-N2? 106 K-N2? 107 K-N2? 108 K-N2? 109 K-N2? 110 K-N2? 111 K-N2? 112 K-N2? 113 K-N2? 114 K-N2? 115 K-N2? 116 K-N2? 117 K-N2? 118 K-N2? 119 K-N2? 120 K-N2? 121 K-N2? 122 K-N2? 123 K-N2? 124 K-N2? 125 K-N2? 126 K-N2? 127 K-N2? 128 K-N2? 129 K-N2? 130 K-N2? 131 K-N2? 132 K-N2? 133 K-N2? 134 K-N2? 135 K-N2? 136 K-N2? 137 K-N2? 138 K-N2? 139 K-N2? 140 K-N2? 141 K-N2? 142 K-N2? 143 K-N2? 144 K-N2? 145 K-N2? 146 K-N2? 147 K-N2? 148 K-N2? 149 K-N2? 150 K-N2? 151 K-N2? 152 K-N2? 153 K-N2? 154 K-N2? 155 K-N2? 156 K-N2? 157 K-N2? 158 K-N2? 159 K-N2? 160 K-N2? 161 K-N2? 162 K-N2? 163 K-N2? 164 K-N2? 165 K-N2? 166 K-N2? 167 K-N2? 168 K-N2? 169 K-N2? 170 K-N2? 171 K-N2? 172 K-N2? 173 K-N2? 174 K-N2? 175 K-N2? 176 K-N2? 177 K-N2? 178 K-N2? 179 K-N2? 180 K-N2? 181 K-N2? 182 K-N2? 183 K-N2? 184 K-N2? 185 K-N2? 186 K-N2? 187 K-N2? 188 K-N2? 189 K-N2? 190 K-N2? 191 K-N2? 192 K-N2? 193 K-N2? 194 K-N2? 195 K-N2? 196 K-N2? 197 K-N2? 198 K-N2? 199 K-N2? 200 K-N2? 201 K-N2? 202 K-N2? 203 K-N2? 204 K-N2? 205 K-N2? 206 K-N2? 207 K-N2? 208 K-N2? 209 K-N2? 210 K-N2? 211 K-N2? 212 K-N2? 213 K-N2? 214 K-N2? 215 K-N2? 216 K-N2? 217 K-N2? 218 K-N2? 219 K-N2? 220 K-N2? 221 K-N2? 222 K-N2? 223 K-N2? 224 K-N2? 225 K-N2? 226 K-N2? 227 K-N2? 228 K-N2? 229 K-N2? 230 K-N2? 231 K-N2? 232 K-N2? 233 K-N2? 234 K-N2? 235 K-N2? 236 K-N2? 237 K-N2? 238 K-N2? 239 K-N2? 240 K-N2? 241 K-N2? 242 K-N2? 243 K-N2? 244 K-N2? 245 K-N2? 246 K-N2? 247 K-N2? 248 K-N2? 249 K-N2? 250 K-N2? 251 K-N2? 252 K-N2? 253 K-N2? 254 K-N2? 255 K-N2? 256 K-N2? 257 K-N2? 258 K-N2? 259 K-N2? 260 K-N2? 261 K-N2? 262 K-N2? 263 K-N2? 264 K-N2? 265 K-N2? 266 K-N2? 267 K-N2? 268 K-N2? 269 K-N2? 270 K-N2? 271 K-N2? 272 K-N2? 273 K-N2? 274 K-N2? 275 K-N2? 276 K-N2? 277 K-N2? 278 K-N2? 279 K-N2? 280 K-N2? 281 K-N2? 282 K-N2? 283 K-N2? 284 K-N2? 285 K-N2? 286 K-N2? 287 K-N2? 288 K-N2? 289 K-N2? 290 K-N2? 291 K-N2? 292 K-N2? 293 K-N2? 294 K-N2? 295 K-N2? 296 K-N2? 297 K-N2? 298 K-N2? 299 K-N2? 300 K-N2? 301 K-N2? 302 K-N2? 303 K-N2? 304 K-N2? 305 K-N2? 306 K-N2? 307 K-N2? 308 K-N2? 309 K-N2? 310 K-N2? 311 K-N2? 312 K-N2? 313 K-N2? 314 K-N2? 315 K-N2? 316 K-N2? 317 K-N2? 318 K-N2? 319 K-N2? 320 K-N2? 321 K-N2? 322 K-N2? 323 K-N2? 324 K-N2? 325 K-N2? 326 K-N2? 327 K-N2? 328 K-N2? 329 K-N2? 330 K-N2? 331 K-N2? 332 K-N2? 333 K-N2? 334 K-N2? 335 K-N2? 336 K-N2? 337 K-N2? 338 K-N2? 339 K-N2? 340 K-N2? 341 K-N2? 342 K-N2? 343 K-N2? 344 K-N2? 345 K-N2? 346 K-N2? 347 K-N2? 348 K-N2? 349 K-N2? 350 K-N2? 351 K-N2? 352 K-N2? 353 K-N2? 354 K-N2? 355 K-N2? 356 K-N2? 357 K-N2? 358 K-N2? 359 K-N2? 360 K-N2? 361 K-N2? 362 K-N2? 363 K-N2? 364 K-N2? 365 K-N2? 366 K-N2? 367 K-N2? 368 K-N2? 369 K-N2? 370 K-N2? 371 K-N2? 372 K-N2? 373 K-N2? 374 K-N2? 375 K-N2? 376 K-N2? 377 K-N2? 378 K-N2? 379 K-N2? 380 K-N2? 381 K-N

Saturday March 2 1985

Contrariness of the bulls

TWO DAYS it seems, is a long time in the currency markets. On Wednesday the Bundesbank led a triumphant raid on the exchanges, hitting a dollar already weakened by Mr Paul Volcker's comments on intervention, and produced the quickest one-day fall in a major exchange rate ever seen. Yesterday the central banks tried to repeat the exercise; but they intervened when the dollar was being pushed up by the news of a rise in the forward indicators for the U.S. economy. The market, anxious to get back into dollars, gratefully gobbled up the euro, pushing the rate up. Altogether, a week which will be studied in future years wherever central bankers are trained.

Psychology

However, although the tactical lesson is useful both to currency managers and investors, who will note that a strong currency is vulnerable when the news is quiet, but not when it is favourable, the really interesting puzzles are the strategic ones: why is the dollar so strong, and why are central bankers so worried about it?

The answer to the first question will be understood more easily by alert investors, who have had to become familiar with the psychology of markets, as by international economists, who have practically disappeared behind the egg on their faces. The wise investors will remember the two contrarian rules of every bull market. The first is that a bull market is most vulnerable when everyone says it is going up further; and the second is that the mugs always buy at the climax.

Bandwagon

This scares central bankers for two reasons: the dollar might go up and stay up for a long time; or it might go up and then come crashing down. If it goes up and stays up the debt crisis will erupt again, the U.S. farm crisis will cause more hardship and possibly bank failures, and the U.S. Administration could be driven to protect its hard-pressed industries and wreck free trade. If it goes up and comes down, the stampede for the exits could be quite unmanageable. Much better stop the trend.

The trend, rather than the level of the dollar is, or ought to be, the real point. So long as there are bad days to balance the good days, investors will be unlikely to see a bandwagon in progress. Traders will go on hedging, borrowers will be reluctant to swap their dollar debts for other currencies at what could be a very unfavourable moment, and any correction could remain manageable. The canny professionals have already taken ring-side seats for the struggle, liquidating their positions and trading minute to minute—and some commercial bankers were as snug on Wednesday as the central bankers. Only fools rush in where bankers fear to tread.

This is all familiar stuff to

in lifting it to the hips, thus enabling the drinker to expend his energies on the serious matter of enjoying the beer contained therein.

Where I do agree with Mr Conold is when ordering a half pint of beer, being asked "Is it for a lady?" and if it is being given the equivalent of a half pint wine goblet. My wife couldn't care less what shape the glass is in such a case.

David R. Brent,
9 Dunoon Close,
Holmes Chapel,
Nr Crewe, Cheshire.

Supping ale

From Mr S. Bronkhurst
Sir—I refer to Mr Conold's letter (February 26) regarding the "inquisition and hassle" we undergo when asking for a pint or half pint of beer.

When this question of glass shape is put to me I invariably reply by demanding a metal tankard, the way beer should be served.

Simon Bronkhurst,
Old Timbers,
The Pounds,
Cookham, Berks.

Diesel engine economy

From the Technical Services Manager, Petrofina (U.K.)
Sir—in his interesting letter (February 23) Mr S. Hoare quotes his excellent fuel consumption figures of 48 mpg but achieved under urban driving conditions which are more favourable to the diesel engine. On motorway-type driving, however, the diesel engine advantage is reduced to about 15 per cent on a volume basis versus an equivalent petrol engine.

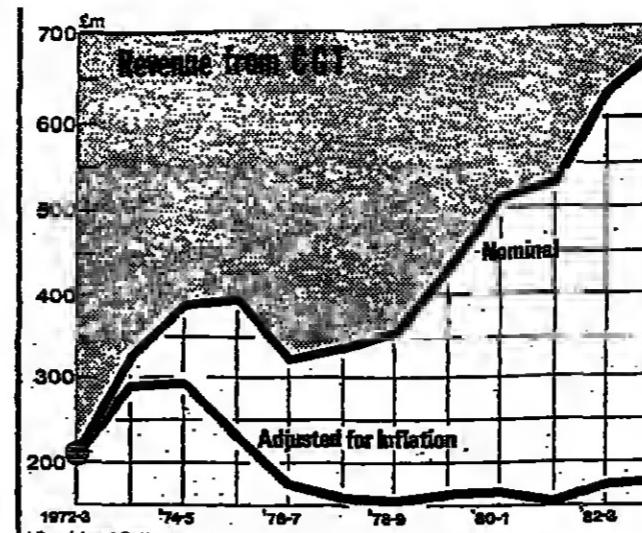
We, however, operate a fleet of approximately 60 1600 cc petrol-engined cars and under mixed urban/motorway conditions the best of these achieve figures of around 43 mpg.

The specific fuel consumption of an engine is normally



This measure will bring to an end the state of affairs in which hard work and great energy are fully taxed while the fruits of speculation and passive ownership escape untaxed... this is part of fair play between groups of taxpayers

JAMES CALLAGHAN
11 NOV. 1964



CAPITAL GAINS TAX REFORM



Not just as simple as it looks

By Clive Wolman, Personal Finance Correspondent

THE CHANCELLOR'S sudden move early on Thursday morning to close a £300m-a-year tax loophole, which permitted bond investors to convert income into capital gains, has raised speculation that he is preparing the ground to abolish capital gains tax in his Budget on March 19.

In last year's Budget speech, Mr Nigel Lawson said he hoped to tackle capital gains tax and its complexities next time round. He thus set himself an objective which all six predecessors have failed to achieve—sorting out the most legalistic and least cost-effective major tax in the Government's armoury.

Many believe that CGT could be simply abolished if the Government were able to introduce effective measures to stop the conversion of highly taxed income into lightly taxed capital gains. Thursday's move was designed to stop investors from selling Government securities and other bonds shortly before the payment of a dividend (taxable as income), after the price had risen in anticipation of the payment.

But Government officials have now made it clear that the tax will neither be abolished nor fundamentally changed, for example, to cover accrued income in line with Thursday's move.

That still leaves a variety of options for reform which could have a profound impact on the economy and the nation's savings and investment. But many of the reforms under consideration would throw up costs and distortions at least as serious as the present structure.

Mr James Callaghan, as Labour Chancellor, introduced CGT 20 years ago in an attempt to make speculators, property developers and well-advised financiers pay a fair share of tax on their profits. In practice, however, the yield from the tax has always been disappointing and until 1983 was falling steadily in real terms. Even this year, after three and a half years of strong stock market gains, the total yield from taxing the gains of individuals will be only about £700m with another £300m coming from corporations.

More seriously, the 1982 inflation adjustment provisions, when they begin to bite, are expected to cut the yield by as

much as 75 per cent, according to estimates of the Institute for Financial Studies, an independent think tank.

In almost every Budget since 1965, Chancellors have introduced new sets of amendments designed to make the tax bite more effectively or to remove the worst economic distortions, or both. By 1979, there were so many legislative refinements that they had to be consolidated into a separate Parliamentary Act of 160 clauses, eight schedules and 168 pages.

All the earlier amendments, however, were overshadowed by the partial indexation provisions introduced in 1982 which make allowances for inflation in limited circumstances. The requirement of this legislation to identify separate transactions has forced most individuals liable to a CGT assessment into the hands of their accountants and those accountants in turn into the hands of professional number-crunchers.

Mr John King, a former Inland Revenue economist now a researcher at the IFS, estimates that the ratio of the yield to the Government from capital gains tax to the costs of administration and compliance is already the lowest of any major tax.

The yield has been low largely because of flaws in the structure of the tax and the mass of exemptions which the sophisticated taxpayer can exploit to tax-deductible capital losses and defer the realisation of taxable gains.

The most audacious tax avoidance schemes marketed in the late 1970s by the Rossmoor Group and other consultants, for example, hinged on their exploitation of capital gains tax exemptions. And nearly all the counter-attacks on tax avoidance, led by the Law Lords over the last four years, have been directed against capital gains tax schemes.

The avoidance of CGT has led to the most bizarre forms of behaviour becoming standard practice in London's financial markets. Stockbrokers have been sued by their clients for failing to follow in all the requisite detail such colourful rituals as bed-and-breakfasting. This involves selling shares late one evening and buying them back early the next morning (since 1982 after a weekend) in order to establish a capital gain or loss.

Insurance companies have introduced computerised monitoring systems to warn them when they have held a Government " gilt-edged" security for 364 days. If the holding then shows a capital loss they will sell it immediately and claim the loss as tax deductible. If it is showing a capital gain, they will hold on for two more days after which they can sell it tax-free.

More seriously, CGT has clogged up the UK stock market and slowed down the process of change. Investors, particularly insurance companies, have become unwilling to sell long lines of shares held for many

him of his statement in last year's Budget that the tax system should not interfere with financial decisions.

But the Chancellor appears to have accepted the view that such a move would create more rather than fewer economic distortions and lead to more rather than less tax avoidance.

Thursday's crack-down on "bond washing" represented just the tip of the iceberg of the taxman's attempts to stop the schemes to convert income into capital gains.

In all the tens of millions of

shares which facilitated such avoidance, thus creating further distortions.

In recognition of these effects, the Conservative Government first introduced a tax on short-term capital gains in 1982.

Most lobbyists have therefore been pressing the Government in their pre-Budget submissions to widen the exemptions from the tax rather than abolish it.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants has argued for a return to a tax on short-term capital gains only. The Association of Independent Businesses has proposed a gradual reduction or tapering in the tax rate, the longer an asset has been held. The Confederation of British Industry has proposed a CGT exemption for all assets held for over seven years. This would require taxing a capital gain, after inflation adjustment, as part of the taxpayer's income in the year in which it was realised. Thus the tax rate on real capital gains would be 30 to 60 per cent depending on the taxpayer's marginal income tax rate.

The tapering proposal, originally examined and rejected by the Inland Revenue in 1977, would solve one set of problems only to throw up another. The need to identify, for example, the dates on which shares in a pool were bought would make tax computations as difficult as the current indexation provisions.

More importantly, such reforms could be only a one-off solution to the problems caused by the high inflation rates between 1972 and 1982. Over the last three years, most bond and equity investors have made substantial real capital gains in excess of inflation. There is no reason for exempting them from tax on these gains, if they hold their assets for seven years. Indeed there is no reason for giving fiscal encouragement to anyone to hold assets for seven years or for any other particular length of time.

A more justifiable way of allowing for past inflation would be to extend the indexation provisions right back to 1965 and to make them comprehensive. This would allow nominal gains to be converted into real capital losses offsettable against other real gains.

Comprehensive indexation would drastically simplify the computation of CGT by tax payers. It would equally drastically cut the yield to the Government from CGT, although the tax loss could

be partially recovered by raising the rate from 30 to, say, 40 per cent.

The Inland Revenue has however consistently objected to allowing indexation for capital gains on assets held for less than a year. This it believes, would lead to irresistible pressure to exempt from income tax that part of interest and dividend income which merely compensates for inflation.

If the Chancellor wished to allow for inflation but reduce the fiscal advantage given to capital gains over investment income, he could introduce further reforms similar to those proposed in the U.S. Treasury's Report on Tax Simplification and Reform published in November. This would require taxing a capital gain, after inflation adjustment, as part of the taxpayer's income in the year in which it was realised. Thus the tax rate on real capital gains would be 30 to 60 per cent depending on the taxpayer's marginal income tax rate.

This reform would still not achieve fiscal neutrality between capital gains and investment income, even if investment income were subject to tax only after inflation adjustment. The inequality arises because the current indexation provisions.

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thus a U.S. Treasury-style reform would do little to remove the locking-in effect of CGT. In theory, the simplest way of removing this distortion would be to tax capital gains as they accrue year by year, whether the asset is sold or not. This would be in line with the new provisions introduced on Thursday to stop bond washing.

There are two conventional objections to such a reform. Firstly, it would be too costly for an individual taxpayer to get, for example, his paintings and jewellery valued each year end. Secondly, it would often be difficult for him to raise the cash to pay the tax except by selling his assets.

But apart from private homes (which are exempt from CGT), the vast majority of the UK's wealth is held through pension funds, insurance companies, unit trusts, and other institutions.

It now appears, however, that such a radical reform has been ruled out, at least for this year's Budget.

The avoidance of CGT has led to the most bizarre forms of behaviour becoming standard practice in the markets

years because they would face a massive CGT bill on the mainly inflationary gains they would realise.

The computer used by the Prudential Assurance's investment managers warns them of how much CGT they would have to pay every time they consider selling a share. "The administration is extremely complex and expensive and we end up paying no significant tax," says Mr Michael Newmarch, chief executive.

By discouraging sales of the tax system has therefore helped preserve the independence of poorly-managed companies when funding off a take-over bid in defiance of market forces. For example, insurance companies have shareholdings in investment trusts worth about £4.5bn. If they liquidated these trusts, the underlying value of their assets would give them an immediate profit of about 33 per cent. However many of their holdings are so long-standing that the CGT charge would transform a potential profit into a real loss.

In view of distortions like these, several lobbies, such as the Institute of Directors, have been urging the Chancellor to abolish the tax and reminding

words of UK tax law, no definition is given of either term. Judges have been forced to grope for a distinction by resorting to metaphors about the growth of trees (capital gains) and fruit (income), which have brought little credit to our jurisdiction.

These difficulties arise because the capital value of most assets, typically shares and bonds, represents no more and no less than the future stream of income they are expected to yield. If expectations of future dividend income from a share rise, so will the share price, creating a capital gain. If capital gains are tax free, the investor can sell immediately and pocket his gains intact. But if he waits for the expected income to arrive, the taxman will take his cut.

For the last 58 years, the Parliamentary draftsman has split, more ink and the law courts wasted, more time grappling with this form of tax avoidance than on any other fiscal matter.

Even at present, capital gains are taxed much more favourably than investment income. But the incentive to convert income into capital gains would be much stronger if CGT was abolished. Investors would flock

greatest attraction to the people on its waiting list (ii) it stipulates that the people on its waiting lists must be offered first choice of these dwellings and, of special relevance to the current government constraints, (iii) since the authority is spending none of its own money it does not infringe any of the capital expenditure constraints.

I do however accept, at the outset, that a large proportion of those on housing lists cannot be helped in this manner—but it is to be hoped, Sir, that political preoccupations will not be allowed to stand in the way of reducing housing lists where this is at all possible.

(Dr) Kitty Little,
8 Olney Court,
Marlborough Road, Oxford.

State pension merits

From the General Secretary, General, Municipal, Boiler-makers and Allied Trades Union

Sir—John Kay (February 22) is right to call for "rational analysis" on the subject of pensions, but his letter is lacking both in factual accuracy and in logical cogency.

Contrary to his assertions the state pension scheme is quite good for low paid workers and very good for mobile workers.

Its provision for inflation after retirement is as good as the Government will let it be. Most particularly, however, the state scheme gives real help to people with broken employment records. Without this sickness, unemployment and, above all, the caring responsibilities of women can become lifelong disasters. This is the only major advantage of SERPS which Michael Prowse did not mention in his excellent article (February 15) "The case for state pensions" but it is of central importance to many groups, including trade unions.

There is a place for both public and private pension provision, but in making comparisons they must be judged by the same standards. John Kay applies a severely practical test to the state scheme but in judging occupational pensions upon which he based his recommendations the answer was:

"My personal steps have been to accept . . . the consensus as expressed by bodies such as UNSECAR, the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation."

This is not merely an academic dispute. The effect of accepting the "consensus" of

people on its waiting list (ii) it stipulates that the people on its waiting lists must be offered first choice of these dwellings and, of special relevance to the current government constraints, (iii) since the authority is spending none of its own money it does not infringe any of the capital expenditure constraints.

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(Dr) Kitty Little,
8 Olney Court,
Marlborough Road, Oxford.

Joint ventures in housing

From Mr A. Phoure

Sir—There is considerable concern amongst local authorities and the wider public that government constraints on the expenditure of funds generated from sales of council homes will artificially limit the number of new houses built in the public sector to (historically) very low levels in 1985 and perhaps also in 1986 even though, in fact, there is at least one way of circumventing these imposed constraints.

In recent years the practice of local authorities and private speculative housebuilders acting in "joint venture" has been growing. In such a venture the local authority provides land from its own land bank upon which the housebuilder builds houses for sale. The authority does not receive the agreed payment for the land until

ICI THROUGH £1bn PROFITS BARRIER

Now the going gets harder

By Tony Jackson, Chemicals Correspondent

ICI's breaching of the £1bn profits barrier, announced on Thursday, is a feat scarcely conceivable in 1982, when group performance was grovelling at a 10-year low. In just 24 months, pre-tax profits have quadrupled.

Though the speed to recovery owes something to luck, ICI can take credit for strategic judgment in the grim days of the early 1980s. From now on, though, the going gets harder. The cycle is at its peak and the next couple of years will provide a stern test of the group's performance in its new, trimmer form.

For the stock market, with its memories of ICI's profits collapse in 1980-82, the chief question is: how robust the group will prove in the next downturn. For ICI matters are more complex. The group must plan on two time scales—short term, for the next cycle, and more fundamentally again for the longer haul.

The cyclical effect cannot be ignored. The group's basic trading profit has shot up by £760m in two years. But of that, well over a third is accounted for by petrochemicals and plastics (P & P) division swinging from a near-£140m loss to an equivalent profit.

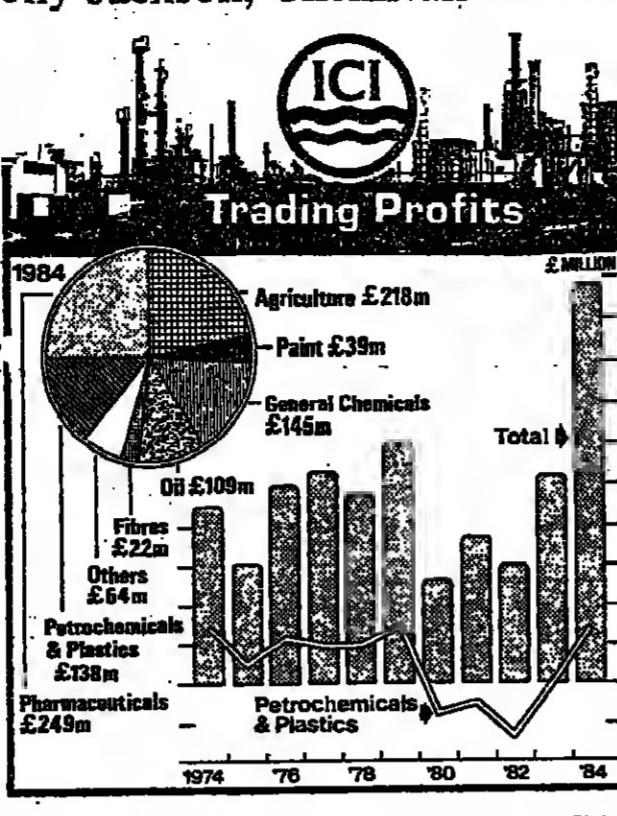
But for ICI, as for most of the world's big chemical companies, the longer haul is much more important. Industry jargon divides chemicals into two classes: commodity or speciality. Commodity chemicals are sold on price, speciality chemicals on performance. Commodity chemicals are "bad" because they are cyclical

and under threat from new low-cost producers, since they are technologically easy to make. Speciality chemicals—smaller in scale, with higher value added—are correspondingly "good". The trick is to use the cash flow from the old commodities to propel the business into new specialities.

In ICI's case, the reality is more complex than for some of its competitors. The company's commodity businesses fall into two "divisional" categories: petrochemicals and plastics and general chemicals. The latter are something of a mixed bag, but consist largely

of basic inorganic chemicals like chlorine and soda ash, produced in colossal bulk in the group's old heartland, the Mond division in Cheshire. And to a surprising extent they are not cyclical.

On the speciality side, ICI has



In the longer view, the basic strategy for the group—the shift from commodities to specialities—should prevail.

But the future is a little murky since the big chemical companies are all searching for specialities

countries—Turkey, the Philippines—are following suit.

On a short, cyclical view, the threat is a minor one. Saudi output, though unbeatable on cost, will add only some 5 per cent to world capacity. Other new producers will add a few more per cent on top. These are small sums by comparison with overcapacity which still exists within the European industry itself, despite the closures in the downswing of the early 1980s.

On the longer view, though, the threat is rather different. The manufacture of bulk petrochemicals is technologically basic. Developing countries may or may not have a cost edge over Europe, but they do need to develop an industrial base and to create added value. In pursuit of that, they may be prepared to accept margins which in European terms would represent an unrealistic return on capital.

This would call for a phased withdrawal by the Europeans. But that is made more difficult by a disease which plagues large parts of the chemicals industry—gigantism, or the urge to be big regardless of profit.

ICI is less prone to this than it used to be. In P & P, says Tom Hutchinson, "we've decided that we wouldn't always want to have the capacity to cope with the cyclical peaks—we would prefer to trade. That's a complete change in philosophy."

However, ICI's decision to swap its polyethylene interests for PVC three years ago, for instance, raises several questions. The move had commercial logic, certainly; the Saudis are not a threat in PVC directly at least—and ICI has the advantage of huge supplies of salt (which is electrolysed into chlorine, which then goes into PVC).

The fact remains, though, that with 11 per cent of world PVC production, ICI is even now—at the peak of the cycle—making only marginal profits on its manufacture. There remains the suspicion that the pride of size came into the decision: that after the virtual abandonment of big products like polyethylene and ethylene glycol, the line had to be drawn somewhere.

In the longer view, though, the basic strategy for the group—the shift from commodities to specialities—should prevail. General chemicals remain as a useful generator of cash, and

it seems logical that the group's involvement in bulk petrochemicals should dwindle further.

This leaves the question of the specialty areas into which the group is to move. In pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals—the two established growth specialities—the outlook is fairly encouraging. In pharmaceuticals, much of the growth to date has rested on the enormous success of one product, the heart drug Tenormin. This will create a problem for the late 1980s, but the group has some new products, across a fair range of therapeutical areas, to take Tenormin's place.

In pesticides and herbicides, the market has always been very competitive. The key, though, lies in successful innovation. ICI's record here is excellent, and likely to stay that way.

Outside of those two large growth areas, the prospects for specialism are more fragmented. There is some growth to come in paints, particularly in water-based paints for the car industry. In advanced composite materials—carbon fibre products, and the like—the group's position has been much strengthened by the Beatrice acquisition in the U.S.

That apart, the future is a

A good record for punching its weight around the world

little murky, particularly since the big chemical companies around the world are all searching for speciality products at the same time.

But ICI has a good record for punching its weight in the world industry. It is worth reflecting just how unlikely it is that the group should exist in its present form: based in the UK, operating in a century-old industry, and still among the world's largest.

The Americans have the advantage of a huge home market, and the Germans have an unrivalled tradition of academic research and training in chemicals. ICI has neither—not does it have the base of the British Empire which supported it in the old days—but it still bangs on. It is a remarkable record of survival, and one which looks like continuing.

THE QUEENSLAND power dispute, which recently blacked out Australia's Sunshine State, has eased temporarily. But further thunder of recrimination rolls on, indicating a possible break-up for industrial relations in Queensland tried to isolate the State Government. Oil for Parliament House was cut off, as was fuel for government aircraft, liquor supplies for government departments, and some postal and phone services.

Unsettled, Sir Joh at one point challenged all trade unions to strike: "Let's get them all out. Let's get it to a good boil. The unions will be done over like a dinner."

Power was finally restored on February 22 when Sir Joh offered to take the 800 sacked Segei workers back, provided they signed a no-strike agreement.

"There were threats to kill me," claims the Premier. "They don't worry me. But the scum that the Opposition apparently support also threatened to kill my grandchildren, to blow up my home, to blow up my office."

A radically different version of events is offered by Mr Neville Wurton, a former assistant secretary of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) and now leader of the Queensland Labor Party.

In Mr Wurton's view Sir Joh's handling of the power crisis demonstrated a willingness to "ransom the already shaky economy of Queensland in a bloody-minded attempt to destroy a free trade union movement". At present, the lights are on in Queensland, and power is flowing. But key sectors like the coal industry were idle until Thursday.

The move that sparked the latest dispute in Queensland's power industry was a bid by the South-East Queensland Electricity Board (SEQEB) to utilise contract (outside) labour during peak periods as a cost-saving measure. The ETU was guaranteed full consultation, security of employment, and no forced sackings.

On February 7, a state of emergency was declared. Four days later 900 striking ETU workers were dismissed, prompting the power station operators to cut output by 50 per cent, necessitating strict rationing.

At present the only thing clear in Queensland is that in 74 years of age, Sir Joh's lifelong war against Socialism and the unions is by no means over. Far from it; he is raising the stakes.

Queensland dispute

Power politics Down Under

By Michael Thompson-Noel in Sydney

and taking Queensland—says Sir Joh—to the very brink of union anarchy."

At the height of the dispute, the trade union movement in Queensland tried to isolate the State Government. Oil for Parliament House was cut off, as was fuel for government aircraft, liquor supplies for government departments, and some postal and phone services.

Thousands of workers in other industries were affected—the only consolation being that Queensland was sweltering in autum summer weather.

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Has Sir Joh won the day with his carrot and bludgeon? Has he curbed the power of greedy trade unions? Or is Mr Wurton right when he says that Sir Joh and his right-wing regime are playing politics while the economy founders with business and industry squashed in between?

The cost has been great.

Coal losses so far total more than A\$120m with Australia's reputation as an unreliable supplier once more confirmed. Major resource companies like MTM Holdings whose coalfields and copper mine were brought to a standstill have suffered badly.

On the other hand, many of Queensland's employers covertly support Sir Joh's stand against the unions.

Unfortunately for Queensland, the state's economy is already on the ropes because of low farm and mineral prices. Unemployment is 11.1 per cent, Australia's highest. It has had more bankruptcies than other states. Private investment is down, against the national trend. There is a home building slump and a 30 per cent drop in engineering construction turnover.

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YOU HAVE 34 DAYS TO PAY LESS TAX, OR A YEAR OF PAYING TOO MUCH.

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After April 5th, the number of opportunities for reducing your tax liabilities will be cut, at a stroke.

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Weekend Brief

Streamlined zoo proposals

THIS MONTH, the Zoological Society of London is to unveil its plans to rescue the faltering finances of the London Zoo, one of the world's oldest and most famous animal collections. These plans will include a reduction in the 3,000 animals (not including fish and insects) which live in the 35-acre zoo, at the northern end of Regent's Park.

Mr David Jones, the society's operations director, which also owns the zoo at Whipsnade in Bedfordshire, says: "We are not going to get rid of broad categories of animals, we just won't have so many types of species."

This means that all the bears, except the polar bears, are likely to go. Most, if not all, of the birds of prey will disappear, as will many of the species of nivis and parrots. They will be found homes in other zoos or, simply, will not be replaced when they die. In addition the zoo plans to redesign displays and improve landscaping to make its environment more appealing. New marketing campaigns and promotions can be expected. Cash raising schemes in the wake of the zoo's successful "Adopt an Animal" campaign are also planned.

The society, better known for the high quality of its scientific and educational work than for its ability to run a profitable leisure business, is suddenly displaying a sharper commercial cutting edge.

Hard decisions have been forced by dwindling attendances and mounting costs. Last year those combined to produce an operating loss at the rate of around £2m. The zoo, like any other business which



Bear necessities—the Mappin Terrace

has fallen on hard times, is having to make cuts and reorganise its resources.

"Big city zoos are expensive to run and the public does not want to see a vast 'stamp collection' of animals," says Mr Jones. "It

The savings are essential if London Zoo is to carry out a large backlog of repairs and renovation. Some structures like the Mappin Terraces—rising tiers of concrete which house the bears and other animals—are more than 60 years old, and badly need restoring.

The terraces, which also contain the aquarium, are the zoo's most distinctive feature. Under the new plans they will be revamped and landscaped to a North American theme, maintaining only animals from that continent. The aquarium will be moved.

"Public attitudes and tastes have changed and we need new attractive designs and displays," says Jones. "People want to view animals in modern, airy, natural surroundings. Some of this work has already been done

—the big cats' displays, for example—but there is a lot more to do. We are competing against other leisure activities which have grown rapidly during the past 20 years."

That the society is able to contemplate surgery at all, rather than call on the receivers, is due only to a rescue package of grants, worth £8m during the next 2½ years, announced by the Government, shortly before Christmas. The money is to cover operating losses and to help wipe out the society's £2m overdraft. Only £1m is actually earmarked for capital investment, hence the need to achieve greater savings to free more cash for improvements.

The Government, however, has promised to match pound for pound, up to £750,000 a year, any money the zoo raises for capital investment. The scheme will be reviewed in April 1987. In return the Government expects a sharper commercial response from the society.

For much of its 159-year history, the society—started in

presence of East German customs officials who methodically searched their wallets and purses and frequently asked them to explain names and telephone numbers listed in their address books.

One correspondent's sandwiches were once x-rayed while he was in transit through Poland. East German customs officials treated travellers bound for that country through East Germany as agents of the "counter-revolution".

Polish avoided driving through East Germany to Western Europe even if it meant a circuitous trip via Sweden.

The grey-green uniforms of the passport officials reminded foreign visitors from both East

service with its grim-faced men

and women in bluish uniforms

which evoked the greatest animosity.

Today, this is just a bad memory. East German border officials, who are employees of the Ministry of the Interior, have been instructed to be courteous to Westerners. Presto! They are now as polite as once they were offensive.

The border controllers

exchange small talk with tourists and frequently tell the latest jokes to Western businessmen visiting East Berlin. Many regular visitors to the East German capital now find themselves being greeted like old friends at the border.

The other crossing points to

East Germany have likewise improved vastly. An East Ger-

man official said the

Andrew Taylor

UK COMPANY NEWS

Lloyds to take up Royal Bank rights issue

Royal Bank has decided to take up its entitlement to shares in its recent rights issue announced by Royal Bank of Scotland.

The announcement yesterday caused some surprise since Lloyds has an understanding with the Office of Fair Trading to reduce its 21 per cent stake in the group.

However, a director commented that the company has "given the commitment to reduce our stake and we will honour that commitment, but we are not under any pressure of time and we thought this was the right thing to do."

He declined to say when Lloyds would reduce its stake or why it had considered it appropriate to take up its full rights entitlement.

Lloyd share price fell 13p to 540p yesterday.

Lloyds is entitled to just over 12m shares at 210p each, which will cost a total of £25.3m. The offer-for-four rights issue was announced last month to finance Royal Bank's £152m purchase of Gartarter Japbet, the merchant bank.

Lloyds agreed with the OFT last year to reduce its stake to 16.4 per cent within a reasonable period of time which has never been spelled out. The deal was struck as part of the cost management scheme under which the Royal Bank also agreed to settle its stake in Lloyds and Scotinvest, the finance house in which Lloyds has an interest.

The decision to take up the entitlement was made because it was "appropriate" according to a top executive. It comes only a few days before Lloyds is due to unveil its 1984 results and some people in the City believe it may announce a rights issue of its own.

Talks fail for London & Strathclyde

Talks on a bid for London & Strathclyde Trust have failed for the second time since last November.

The Gartmore-managed trust said the potential bidder required irrevocable acceptances covering a majority of the trust's equity, as well as board recommendation before launching a bid.

It said the offer was well below asset value and therefore could not be recommended.

It was understood that the bidder was seeking the trust as a means of realising cash through a disguised rights issue, and the cash offer would have been around 93 per cent of asset value, compared with more normal levels for this type of bid at around 100 per cent.

The share price fell 10p to 133p, valuing the trust at £26.3m.

L & M 7% stake in London Trust

London and Manchester insurance group has disclosed a 7 per cent holding in London Trust, the investment trust which is now in discussions on a possible management switch to Hamrecht & Quist, a San Francisco-based investment bank.

The insurance company bought 2m shares, raising its stake to 6.8m, while Save and Prosper has sold its entire 3.6 per cent stake.

Under the proposals, London Trust would be converted into a vehicle for investment in U.S. venture and mezzanine capital.

ICI placing to part fund Beatrice

Imperial Chemical Industries yesterday made a £145.5m share placing to finance part of the cost of its \$750m (£389m) acquisition of Beatrice Chemical of the U.S. The Beatrice deal, first announced last December, was formally completed on Thursday.

The shares were placed at 825p, a discount of 10p to the closing price of the night before. U.S. investors, who currently own just over 16 per cent of ICI's equity, were not offered any of the new stock.

The company explained that under SEC regulations, the issue of further shares in the U.S. would have required "certain additional disclosures" which the group was not able to make in the time available. "Ideally, we

would have loved to open it up to everyone," ICI said. "We will be looking at our procedures for the future."

The balance of the cost of Beatrice will be met from cash and bank facilities. The group's gross liquidity currently stands at over £1bn, and net of short term borrowings at £630m. The 18m new shares being issued are close to the ceiling which ICI is allowed to issue without seeking permission of shareholders.

The placing puts to rest recent City rumours that ICI might be contemplating a rights issue to finance Beatrice. In view of chairman Mr John Harvey-Jones' declared conviction that ICI's share price is too low, there was mild surprise that the



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The decision to take up the entitlement was made because it was "appropriate" according to a top executive. It comes only a few days before Lloyds is due to unveil its 1984 results and some people in the City believe it may announce a rights issue of its own.

However, a director commented that the company has "given the commitment to reduce our stake and we will honour that commitment, but we are not under any pressure of time and we thought this was the right thing to do."

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COMPANY NEWS

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Activity on the domestic bids and deals front was at a fairly low ebb this week, but in Hong Kong, the Whealock Marden Wharf increasing its offer to HK\$7.40 for every Whealock A share and 74 cents for every B share. The latest bid values Tan Sri Khoo's Farwin of HK\$7.0 for each A share and 70 cents for the B shares. East Asia Warburg, advisers to Whealock, issued a further statement advising shareholders not to sell out. Local analysts feel that the auction is far from over.

Quadrex Holdings, a privately-owned investment banking group, has emerged as the successful bidder for R. P. Martin, the foreign exchange and currency broker. Last month, Martin announced that it was in talks with various parties, including the management of the company. Quadrex is bidding 45p per share cash and a majority of Martin shareholders have already agreed to accept. These include the 45 per cent held by the German voting trust representing the interests of Bierbaum, the Dusseldorf broker with which Martin merged in 1981. The £44m deal has Bank of England approval and Martin's status as a recognised broker will not be affected.

The Times Veneer, which is controlled by the Berman family, received a bid approach. The furniture manufacturer warned that any resulting offer would fall well short of last Monday's closing price of 37p. The price has slipped to 33p pending developments.

Company	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Value of bid	Bidder		
Barro Inds	781	84	65	CR Industries		
Bonobound	318	28	23	Promotions Hse		
Booker McConnell	239.4	242	250	Dee Corp		
Buntingfield-Hvry	279.4	264	224	Technology Inc		
Dunlop	211	44	31	BTB		
E of Scot Onshore	11	91	65	Ind Fin & Inv Co		
Elson & Robbins	901.5	58	58	Hartons Group		
Foster Bros	185	206	138	Ward White		
Haden	240.5	303	232	Trafalgar House		
Hoskins & Brnt	350.5	55	345	70	9.51	Scottish Heritable
Burst (Charles)	200.4	190	150	Garvagh Secs		
Initial	522.5	155	523	316.24 BET		
Lake & Elliot	801	77	654	Suter		
Leech (Wm)	173.5	175	134.1	25.5 Bearer (C.H.)		
Lon & Mcn Secs	9	91	104	Amal Estates		
Manor National	134.5	124	13	Bramall (C.D.)		
Martin (R.P.)	450.5	436	420	43.5 Quadrex		
Pauls	334.5	335	253	104.0 Harrisons & Cofid		
Petrolex	58*	70	50	9.06 Clyde Petroleum		
Pratt (F.)	78.5	77	43	600 Group		
Seccombe, Marshall	440*	450	320	7.04 Citicorp		
String Guaranteed	691	65	325.5	248.46 P & O		
TMG Group	125.5	95	75	1.67 Smurfit (J.)		
Total	70*	72	63	124.03 Entrad Corp		
Trident TV Ord	249.5	240	209	3.64 Pleasrama		
Trident TV AV	237.5	185	240	110.24 Pleasrama		
Unibond	225.5	217	165.5	13.21 Beecham		
Webster Group	145.5	133	140	22.34 Octopus Publishing		
Whittington	335.5	51	33	15.20 Aitken Rume		

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ¶ Unconditional. ** Based on March 1 1985. † At suspension. §§ Shares and cash. || Related to NAV to be determined. ||| Loan stock.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year	Pre-tax profit	Earnings	Dividends*
		('000)	pence*	per share (p)
Aaronite Group	Oct	701	(634)	9.0 (-83) 2.8 (125)
British Vending	Dec	587	(410)	6.1 (34) 1.05 (0.77)
Adams & Gibson	Nov	654	(624)	— (—) 5.5 (5.25)
Amt & Wibors	Dec	1,120	(207)	— (—) (—)
Barrow Hepburn	Dec	1,680	(1,587)	— (—) 2.2 (2.2)
Bibby, J.	Dec	21,500	(18,524)	13.4 (12.4) 5.25 (3.89)
Cowle, T.	Dec	2,290	(1,130)	10.4 (7.9) 2.75 (2.0)
Dewey Warren	Dec	1,180	(724)	14.7 (7.7) 7.0 (—)
Fisons	Dec	48,300	(31,200)	19.5 (14.4) 4.5 (3.75)
Good Relations	Dec	1,350	(877)	9.9 (5.5) 4.9 (2.87)
ICI	Dec	103,000	(61,900)	98.2 (65.3) 30.0 (24.0)
Kean & Scott	Dec	10,090	(5,470)	8.0 (7.2) 1.67 (1.1)
Ladies Pride	Nov	2821	(228)	— (—) 2.8 (1.5) 1.25 (0.8)
Marley	Dec	33,140	(23,180)	— (—) 3.75 (3.2)
McAlpine, A.	Dec	22,640	(19,520)	45.4 (33.0) 11.0 (9.0)
Microvitec	Dec	2,640	(2,510)	5.8 (5.8) 0.75 (—)
Miss World Grp	Dec	515	(340)	16.0 (10.9) 3.6 (3.0)
Neil & Spencer	Nov	657	(585)	3.2 (2.3) (—) (—)
Olives Paper Mills	Dec	149L	(38)	— (—) (—) (—)
Padang Sehang	Sept	245	(134)	2.3 (1.2) 14 (0.7)
Ratcliffe (Gt Br)	Dec	2,040	(311)	27.7 (—) 3.5 (3.75)
Renters	Dec	74,300	(55,200)	10.9 (8.5) 2.5 (2.1)
Saga Holidays	Oct	2,560	(2,440)	9.2 (7.8) 4.0 (5.0)
STC	Dec	140,800	(138,300)	23.2 (18.9) 9.0 (7.5)
Vantona Viyella	Nov	21,140	(12,050)	39.3 (35.7) 10.0 (8.0)
Vickers	Dec	30,900	(19,500)	28.6 (14.3) 10.0 (8.0)
Williams Hldgs	Dec	1,920	(176)	21.0 (—) (—) (—)
Williams, R.	Nov	167	(153)	1.9 (1.7) (—) (—)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit	Interim dividends*
		(£'000)	per share (p)
Amstrad	Dec	9,530	(6,820)
Apex Properties	Sept	295	(274)
Cont Microwave	Dec	220	(201)
Don Bro's Buist	Nov	1,800	(859)
Douglas, Robert	Sept	295L	(200)
Electro Hedges	Dec	810	(761)
FII Group	Nov	810	(674)
Imtec	Sept	21	(140)
Intereurope Tech	Dec	626	(499)
Jackson, W.	Oct	880	(610)
Peel Holdings	Sept	619	(250)
Peters, Michael	Dec	338	(250)
Ranar Textiles	Nov	588	(348)
Spectros	Dec	789	(—)
Stothert & Pitt	Dec	129L	(317)
Telefusin	Oct	367L	(1,230)
United Glass	Dec	8,660	(14,440)
Watsons	Sept	886	(603)

(Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period.)

* Dividends are shown net pence per share, except where otherwise indicated. † For 15 months. ‡ For previous 16 months. L Loss.

Rights Issues

Barrow Hepburn Group—To raise £3.54m through a one for four rights issue at 39p per share.

Bibby, J.—To raise £27.7m through a one for eight rights issue at 225p per share.

Fisons—To raise £94.3m through a one for five rights issue at 245p per share.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Mid-Southern Water Company—Offer for sale by tender of 25.25 per cent redeemable preference stock 1990 at a minimum tender price of par.

Mid-Saxess Water Company—Issue of £3.5m 12 per cent redeemable debenture stock 2010.

Pepe Group—USM offer for sale of 5.5m shares at 100p per share.

Taiwan arrests Tenth Credit chief

BY ROBERT KING IN TAIPEI

THE TAIWAN police yesterday arrested Mr Tsai Chen-Chou, head of both Cathay Plastics and Tenth Credit Co-Operative—two financially troubled companies. Mr Tsai, who is a member of the Taiwan parliament, was detained shortly after his immunity as a member of the legislature was removed by the 73-member body.

The authorities have charged Mr Tsai with issuing 181 bad cheques valued at NT\$ 440m (US\$ 11.2m), forgery, illegal endorsement of cheques and the channelling of funds from Tenth Credit to other companies in the widely spread family corporate empire. Mr Tsai's father, Wan-Chueh, has also been charged with issuing disfavoured cheques totalling NT\$ 630m in value, although he has not been arrested.

For the last two weeks Mr Tsai's various companies have

been besieged by thousands of creditors seeking payment for cheques issued to them. His debts are estimated to run to more than US\$250m.

Over the past few weeks disclosures by the government of leading irregularities at Tenth Credit, as well as announcements by Mr Tsai that Cathay Plastics — part of one of Taiwan's largest family-run groups — could not pay its debts, have caused panic among thousands of small creditors and foreign bankers. They fear that the trouble might spread to other connected companies.

Foreign bankers held an emergency meeting yesterday morning to discuss the developments and their implications for the banks. While foreign bank exposure in Cathay

Plastics amounts to only about US\$12m, loans outstanding to Cathay Investment and Trust

Corporation as well as other companies run by Mr Tsai's brother, Mr Tsai Chen-Nan, could be as high as US\$200m, one banker said.

As the two may have been guaranteeing one another's loans, Cathay Investment could well be sucked into the debacle and in turn pull down other firms in the group. Worried bankers say privately that this "worst case" outcome is likely unless the government steps in to support Cathay Investment and so prevents knock-on problems.

Over the past eight days 15 officials of Tenth Credit and Cathay Plastics have been summoned to be questioned by the police.

The troubles at the two companies demand to be repaid. Some of these have only promissory notes or post-dated cheques as security. Returns of 24 to 30 per cent per annum to such creditors appear to have played a large part in Mr Tsai's woes.



Leh Jen-kong, Minister of Finance: resignation demanded.

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Small creditors stand to lose heavily by the company's troubles. Since the disclosures of Cathay Plastics' difficulties, thousands of individual creditors

have besieged offices of sub-

sidiaries demanding to be repaid.

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CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Further intervention

Another large effort by central banks only barely held the dollar in check yesterday, as market sentiment again wanted to drive U.S. currency higher. A high Federal funds rate of 8½ per cent in New York, and a rise of 1.7 per cent in January U.S. leading indicators, gave the dollar an added boost in the afternoon, but demand was also very strong in the morning, before activity tailed off towards the close. The German Bundesbank was reported to be intervening in the Far East before Europe opened, managing to push the dollar down from a peak in Hong Kong of DM 3.3880 to the day's low of DM 3.32.

Sterling remained depressed

by concern about oil prices, falling 75 points to \$1.0720-1.0730, and also declined in DM 3.60, from DM 3.6150; FF 11.0250 from FF 11.0350; and Yen 820 from Y220.50, but was unchanged at SWF 3.0850. The exchange rate index fell 0.5 to 76.2, while the dollar's index rose to 151.3 from 150.5.

in New York (Latest)

	March 1	Prev. close
Spot	\$1.0720-1.0730	\$1.0710-1.0720
1 month	820.50-825.00	820.50-825.00
3 months	1.13-1.14pm	1.14-1.15pm
12 months	1.70-1.75pm	1.70-1.75pm

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar.

OTHER CURRENCIES

	Mar. 1	2	3	4	5	Note Rates
Argentina Peso	200.84-207.52	207.50-206.15				
Australian Dollar	1.2000-1.2020	1.2020-1.2030				
Brazil Cruzeiro	4.205-4.357	4.351-4.395				
Finland Markka	7.4565-7.4825	7.4700-7.4800				
Hong Kong Dollar	14.85-15.15	15.15-15.40				
Iran Rial	101.60-102.60	102.60-103.60				
Kuwait Dinar (D)	0.8295-0.8305	0.8270-0.8270				
Luxembourg F.	72.50-72.60	72.60-72.70				
Norway Krone	10.30-10.40	10.40-10.50				
New Zealand D.	2.4230-2.4430	2.4420-2.4520				
Saudi Arab Rial	3.8585-3.8685	3.8700-3.8800				
Singapore Dollar	2.4275-2.4325	2.4290-2.4340				
Swiss Franc	1.065-1.082	1.070-1.082				
U.S. Dollar	1.0200-1.0215	1.0215-1.0230				
U.A.E. Dirham	3.9200-3.9415	3.9300-3.9515				

* Selling rates;

** Buying rates;

† Forward rates;

‡ Forward rates;

§ Forward rates;

|| Forward rates;

||| Forward rates;

|||| Forward rates;

||||| Forward rates;

|||||| Forward rates;

||||||| Forward rates;

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LONDON SHARE SERVICE

LONDON SHARE SERVICE																	
BEERS, WINES - Cont.								DRAPERY & STORES - Cont.									
1984-85	High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Wk	Cw	YTD	High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Wk	Cw	YTD	
280	210	Young Brew 'W 50p	210	-	15.5	20	37	187	54	35	W Kent (Lond) Sp.	400	-	12	4	57	
180	120	Do. Not. V. 50p	230	-	15.5	20	60	116	54	23	Ladies Pride 20p	220	-	13	4	95	
BUILDING, TIMBER, ROADS																	
261	186	HMEC 50p	249	-2	120.0	24	57	45	54	167	100	Le Cooper	125	-	13	51	39
157	164	Marine Con.	184	-	16.5	22	58	45	54	148	100	Liberty	125	-	12	24	9.9
210	164	Marine Satellite Sp.	200	-	12.5	25	14	408	54	470	148	Du. Non Vis.	260	-	14	24	24
51	15	Marine Plant Sp.	219	+1	8	-	-	-	54	140	250	Lincroft K. 10p	160	+3	13	23	4.9
25	22	Merton Ted Hedges	22	-	-	-	-	-	54	167	150	MF Furniture 10p	210	+2	14	23	33
77	30	Merton Ted Hedges	30	-	12.6	21	4	36	54	140	153	Marks & Spencer	134	-	14	23	21
111	81	Merton Ted Hedges	206	-	12.5	15	4.7	186	54	143	116	Millets Lts. 20p	220	-	14	23	14
337	252	Merton Ted Hedges	236	-2	17.5	24	4.2	86	54	124	70	NSS News 10p	90	-	13	29	4.8
245	224	Merton Ted Hedges	255	+13	6.2	57	33	110	54	256	250	Oliver D. 14p	340	-	14	23	10.3
45	27	Merton Ted Hedges	255	-	12.5	29	4.5	49	54	276	215	Orl Price 20p	340	-	14	23	28.8
82	20	Merton (H. J.) 10p	35	-	-	-	-	-	54	128	128	Oswell Owen	280	-	13	24	14.4
188	68	Merton Dev. 10p	27	-	-	-	-	-	54	96	78	Peters Stores 10p	75	-	14	23	5.7
115	115	Merton Dev. 10p	72	-	7.5	17	1.5	47	54	143	71	Presty (Alfred)	115	-	13	23	4.2
77	55	Merton Dev. 10p	70	-	7.0	28	8.0	80	54	305	202	Ranier Textiles 5p	25	-	13	23	9.3
150	96	Merton Dev. 10p	160	-	12.5	25	3.2	170	54	40	40	Reckers 10p	82	+3	14	23	13.3
65	45	Merton Dev. 10p	58	-	11	6	7.6	6	54	124	22	Rayleach 10p	24	-	14	23	8.3
349	349	Merton Dev. 10p	545	-	21.0	25	3.3	139	54	130	250	Raymond Supreme	150	-	14	23	43
520	325	Merton Dev. 10p	505	-	19.0	29	5.4	73	54	113	24	Red Aegis 'A' M.V.	100	+1	13	23	3.9
184	184	Merton Dev. 10p	205	-	14.0	25	5.4	73	54	25	10	SEAL Stores 12p	21	-	13	23	—
69	46	Merton Dev. 10p	65	-	14.0	25	5.4	84	54	29	20	SEAL Stores 12p	20	-	13	23	15.8
156	66	Merton Dev. 10p	65	-	12.5	17	3.3	78	54	128	103	Seamed (H.J.)	123	-	14	23	29.7
80	47	Merton Dev. 10p	75	-	20	2.7	3.4	136	54	67	67	Seam Hides	98	-	13	23	11.9
24	13	Merton Dev. 10p	18	-	8	-	-	-	54	22	102	Selbytextile 5p	214	-	14	23	1.2
59	57	Merton Dev. 10p	46	-	12.5	31	7.6	61	54	21	184	SEASure Org 10p	210	-	14	23	12.5
77	50	Merton Dev. 10p	70	-1	12.5	29	6.3	73	54	290	148	Shapton (S.J.) "A"	212	-	14	23	32.2
55	55	Merton Dev. 10p	70	-5	18.0	19.0	5.0	80	54	222	110	Smith (H.J.A.) 50p	178	-	14	23	1.5
52	52	Merton Dev. 10p	51	-	1.0	25	7.8	75	54	50	34	Stanley (A. E. J.) 5p	46	-	14	23	10.1
67	47	Merton Dev. 10p	67	-	12.5	45	4.1	78	54	147	58	Stahlberg 10p	68	-	14	23	4.8
44	40	Merton Dev. 10p	64	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Starling Group 20p	74	+2	14	23	5.2
28	23	Merton Dev. 10p	28	-	20	7.7	8.1	81	54	190	40	Starline 20p	46	-	14	23	1.3
232	232	Merton Dev. 10p	242	-	12.5	26	3.6	82	54	255	255	Suspending Stars 10p	300	+2	14	23	26.2
247	174	Merton Dev. 10p	208	+2	5.5	21	5.0	68	54	124	96	S/T & Stores 5p	119	-	14	23	1.3
106	65	Merton Dev. 10p	104	+2	5.5	9	7.7	6	54	154	53	Tern Group	50	-	14	23	1.3
94	47	Merton Dev. 10p	760	-	12.5	20	10.7	60	54	144	249	Time Prod. 10p	53	+2	14	23	4.0
67	45	Merton Dev. 10p	48	-	12.5	26	3.0	82	54	19	19	Upton (E.I.) 5p	22	-	14	23	6.0
23	12	Merton Dev. 10p	22	+1	12.5	20	7.1	39	54	155	250	Ventura Vinylia 20p	228	-	14	23	2.5
63	61	Merton Dev. 10p	42	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Ward White	222	-	14	23	3.3
63	61	Merton Dev. 10p	42	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Worthing & Gillow	140	+2	14	23	26.5
63	61	Merton Dev. 10p	42	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Wossall (J. W.)	55	-	14	23	4.6
52	52	Merton Dev. 10p	42	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Wright (H.J.)	563	-2	14	23	3.2
23	12	Merton Dev. 10p	42	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Wynchesters Hides 50p	80	-	14	23	15.6
CHEMICALS, PLASTICS																	
165	95	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	AB Electronic	410	-2	14	23	21.7
77	95	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	A & S. Sec. Elec 5p	73	-	14	23	13.1
108	108	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Acme Computer 20p	280	-	14	23	2.5
49	27	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	ACF Call	320	-10	14	23	10.1
112	102	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Acmelet Sp.	192	-	14	23	10.1
122	122	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Adapted Graphics 5p	255	+25	14	23	1.5
106	106	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	ADW Warrant	210	-	14	23	1.5
106	106	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	AEC 5p	225	-	14	23	1.5
106	106	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	AEG 5p	225	-	14	23	1.5
106	106	Merton Dev. 10p	220	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Airline 5p	370	-	14	23	30.8
136	136	Merton Dev. 10p	206	+1	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Amidonic 20p	6	-	14	23	—
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Amplified Sec. Elec 10p	165	-7	14	23	5.9
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	AMCC 50p	232	-2	14	23	6.5
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	ANSR 10p	140	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antarctic W 5p	47	-	14	23	26.2
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	212	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	170	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	130	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	90	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	50	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	10	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	6	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	2	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	1	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	0	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	0	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	0	-	14	23	1.4
183	183	Merton Dev. 10p	206	-	12.5	19	5.4	67	54	127	147	Antennex 5p	0	-	14	23	1.4
183</																	

ENGINEERING—Continued						
	Stock	Price	Per cent	Div.	Net	C.W.
1. Bailey (C. H.)	217	112	—	64.45	—	27
2. Baker Perkins 50p	207	—	—	43.3	1.2	2
3. Bartsch Ind. 20p	84	—	—	8	—	1
3. Batickite Holdings 1p	53	—	—	—	—	1
2. Beaufort 10p.	72	—	—	14.0	2.5	2
2. Belgrave Holdings	124	42	—	—	—	1
4. Berlin I.D.F.J. 5p	162	—	—	61.0	3.0	8
1. Bernick Quarries	821	—	—	—	—	1
1. Berwyn Mint	208	-10	—	115.5	1.9	7
3. Black & Decker 50p	529	-14	—	664	—	2
9. Blackwood Hedge	27	—	—	—	—	1
1. Blenheim Win. 10p	9	+12	—	—	—	1
1. Boston Millar 10p	67	—	—	11.1	2.4	2
4. Bracknell El.	124	—	—	19.3	0.8	1
1. Bradbury 10p	43	—	—	11.3	2.5	5
1. Bristol City Ship 10p	42	—	—	11.3	2.5	5
1. Brit. Steam 20p	113	—	—	165.3	1.6	6
1. Brooks Cast. 20p	27	—	—	10.92	4.2	4
1. Brooks Eng. 10p	16	—	—	11.04	2.4	2
8. Brooke 7scl	25	—	—	1.0	♦	5
7. Brown & Tarrant	126	—	—	4.8	2.5	5
1. Brown (John)	35	—	—	—	—	1
1. Burroughs 20p	475	—	—	66.3	♦	2
Burgess Products	124	—	—	120	9.6	14
1. Butterfield-Harvey	262	—	—	48	—	1
1. Cadent Eng.	518	—	—	1.05	♦	4
1. Cambridge Inc.	20	+5	—	—	—	1
1. Carle Eng.	230	+5	—	9.5	2.5	3
1. Cartwright R. 10p	206	—	—	3.75	2.8	8
1. Capings 10p	58	-2	—	3.25	2.4	8
1. Chamberlin & Hill	52	—	—	3.1	2.3	8
1. Chelming 5p	500	—	—	10.0	3.6	2
For Christy Bros						
1. Christy Bros	51	-1	—	—	—	1
1. Clayton Sun 50p	62	—	—	13.1	—	1
1. Cohen (AJ) 20p	510	—	—	19.8	5.4	1
1. Concentric 10p	65	—	—	3.48	1.5	7
1. Cook (Wm.) 10scl 20p	54	+2	—	12.5	2.2	8
1. Cooper (Fr.) 10p	51	—	—	1.77	2.3	8
1. Cooper Inds. 10p	121	—	—	20.67	—	1
1. Cronkite Group	39	+2	—	—	—	1
1. Crown House	143	—	—	16.4	—	6
1. Cummins 7B-34	246	—	—	63.4	—	1
1. D&S Met. A'10p	54	—	—	2.23	2.0	5
1. Dairy Corp.	92	-2	—	3.64	1.4	5
1. Delta Group	122	-1	—	3.75	4.2	4
1. Delisted 20p	125	—	—	6.0	3.0	2
1. Desautels Bros.	142	-2	—	15.6	2.0	3
1. Downhills 10p	27	—	—	—	—	1
1. Edman (F.Hedg.)	221	—	—	6.0	3.3	7
1. Elliott (B.J.)	58	—	—	—	0.1	0.5
1. Farmer C.S.W.	90	—	—	19.75	1.0	15
1. Fife Indusr.	125	-3	—	16.6	2.3	7
1. Finch E. M. J. 20p	245	—	—	10.33	2.8	8
1. Folkes H'to 5p	24	—	—	10.25	0.6	7
1. GEC Intel. 20p	26	—	—	15.32	0.9	8
1. Garton Eng. 10p	64	-2	—	—	—	1
1. Gazeley 10p	177	-2	—	18.65	2.1	7
1. Greenbank 10scl 10p	35	—	—	2.1	1.6	8
1. GKN El.	212	-1	—	4.0	2.3	6
1. Hatch Precision 5p	43	-1	—	1.5	2.6	2
1. Hadco	345	-2	—	40.63	2.2	4
1. Hall Esp. 50p	129	—	—	7.61	2.9	8
1. Hall (Matthew)	316	—	—	17.0	2.9	8
1. Hallite 50p	160	—	—	7.75	—	6
1. Hamson Inds. 5p	201	—	—	10.02	3.6	5
1. Hawker Siddeley	437	-2	—	11.0	3.3	1
1. Hill & Smith	73	—	—	3.68	2.4	7
1. Hitchcock 5p	21	—	—	—	—	1
1. Hopkins 50p	145	—	—	15.35	3.4	3
1. Howard Macky	12	—	—	12.8	2.9	4
1. Hull	110	-7	—	44.5	2.8	5
1. Jackson (J.A. H.B.) 5p	94	+7	—	1.75	♦	3
1. Johnson & Firth	161	+1	—	—	—	1
1. Jones & Shipman	67	—	—	11.0	—	2
1. Laird Group	151	—	—	15.0	2.0	7
1. Lake & Elton	77	—	—	—	—	1
1. Lee (Arthur) 12scl	342	—	—	12	2.9	3
1. Linstead	29	—	—	2.0	—	1
1. Lloyd (F.H.) 5p	52	—	—	1.25	2.9	4
1. Locker (T.) 5p	23	+2	—	1.30	24	8
1. Do. "A" 5p	22	+2	—	1.30	24	8
1. M&L Holdings	320	—	—	7.0	27	30
1. M&S Interiol 10p	49	—	—	—	—	1
1. M&S H'to 10p	154	—	—	8	—	1
1. Reesold El.	461	—	—	—	—	1
1. Richards (Leeds)	38	—	—	12.0	—	1
1. Rich's West. 50p	28	+1	—	—	—	1
1. Richardson (Tins)	46	+1	—	—	—	1
1. Robert 10p	224	—	—	15.85	24	4
1. SKF AB 50p	220	+14	—	10.17	♦	8
1. Searle Eng's 10p	24	-3	—	3.72	2.5	2
1. Simon Eng's	245	—	—	1.5	11	8
1. 600 Group	96	-1	—	5.25	0.9	7
1. Smith Whit. 50p	44	—	—	—	0.8	12
1. Spence & Jackson	144	—	—	15.25	3.4	3
1. Spencer C'ty. 20p	41	—	—	0.5	5.9	17
1. Stavely Inds. 51	322	—	—	14.0	1.4	6
1. Southern & Pit. El.	337	—	—	3.82	3.1	1
1. TACE 10p	428	—	—	4.5	2.8	15
1. TELF 20p	67	-1	—	14.7	4.3	6
1. Tex Abrasives 10p	71	—	—	3.5	2.3	7
1. Thyssen-Duval	545	—	—	—	—	1
1. Triplex	38	—	—	0.5	13.6	19
1. Tyzack Turner	92	—	—	8.24	3.7	4
1. Tycow (A.J.) 10p	36	—	—	—	25	60
1. Uni. Spring 10p	20	—	—	—	—	1
1. Uni. Wire Group	125	—	—	6.25	2.0	7
1. Vickers El.	250	+9	—	10.02	4.0	9
1. Waterfront Prods.	168	-2	—	4.6	1.7	6
1. Waddington	197	-3	—	25.0	42	4
1. Walsay Industries	143	—	—	13.0	23	30
1. Walker (C.J. & S.L.) 10p	127	—	—	16.0	1.7	61
1. Ward H'to 10p	154	—	—	—	—	1
1. Weller 10p	461	—	—	0.2	2.2	5
1. Whetstone	112	—	—	0.8	0.8	12
1. Hell (James)	139	—	—	11.10	6.1	15
1. Newman-Tunks	89	—	—	5.4	1.6	8
1. Parfined Group 5p	51	—	—	10.8	—	1
1. Peleg-Hoffmeyer	279	-3	—	11.55	2.0	6
1. Planet Corp 10p	74	—	—	2.75	2.0	7
1. Porter Chud. 20p	111	—	—	10.05	—	1
1. Pratt (F.)	77	+2	—	4.15	2.7	1
1. Priest (Beg.) 5p	82	—	—	—	—	1
1. Do. DoCoatedPrl	167	—	—	—	—	5.4
1. RHP	91	+1	—	3.0	2.9	47
1. RTD Group 1000-20	22	—	—	—	—	1
1. Ransomes Sons 51	545	-5	—	115.0	21	39
1. Radcliffe C.I.S.L. 10p	144	-1	—	3.5	♦	33
1. Do. DoCoatedPrl	279	—	—	—	—	1
1. Reesold El.	115	-8	—	8.25	25	102
1. Whessoe	94	—	—	5.5	2.5	8
1. Willey	45	—	—	—	—	1
1. Williams H'to 10p	230	+15	—	841.6	—	1
1. Windham 10p	272	—	—	10.75	—	1
1. Winstanley 12scl	272	—	—	—	—	1
1. Wyndham Eng. 15p	74	-2	—	11.25	1.6	29
1. Yarrow 50p	435	—	—	11.0	3.3	36

INDUSTRIALS—Continued		LEISURE—Continued		PROPERTY—Continued		INVESTMENT TRUSTS		GAS		2004-85	
Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
101	100	102	100	103	100	104	100	105	100	106	100
107	100	108	100	109	100	110	100	111	100	112	100
113	100	114	100	115	100	116	100	117	100	118	100
124	100	125	100	126	100	127	100	128	100	129	100
130	100	131	100	132	100	133	100	134	100	135	100
136	100	137	100	138	100	139	100	140	100	141	100
142	100	143	100	144	100	145	100	146	100	147	100
148	100	149	100	150	100	151	100	152	100	153	100
154	100	155	100	156	100	157	100	158	100	159	100
160	100	161	100	162	100	163	100	164	100	165	100
166	100	167	100	168	100	169	100	170	100	171	100
172	100	173	100	174	100	175	100	176	100	177	100
178	100	179	100	180	100	181	100	182	100	183	100
184	100	185	100	186	100	187	100	188	100	189	100
190	100	191	100	192	100	193	100	194	100	195	100
196	100	197	100	198	100	199	100	200	100	201	100
202	100	203	100	204	100	205	100	206	100	207	100
208	100	209	100	210	100	211	100	212	100	213	100
214	100	215	100	216	100	217	100	218	100	219	100
220	100	221	100	222	100	223	100	224	100	225	100
226	100	227	100	228	100	229	100	230	100	231	100
232	100	233	100	234	100	235	100	236	100	237	100
238	100	239	100	240	100	241	100	242	100	243	100
244	100	245	100	246	100	247	100	248	100	249	100
250	100	251	100	252	100	253	100	254	100	255	100
256	100	257	100	258	100	259	100	260	100	261	100
262	100	263	100	264	100	265	100	266	100	267	100
268	100	269	100	270	100	271	100	272	100	273	100
274	100	275	100	276	100	277	100	278	100	279	100
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292	100	293	100	294	100	295	100	296	100	297	100
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316	100	317	100	318	100	319	100	320	100	321	100
322	100	323	100	324	100	325	100	326	100	327	100
328	100	329	100	330	100	331	100	332	100	333	100
334	100	335	100	336	100	337	100	338	100	339	100
340	100	341	100	342	100	343	100	344	100	345	100
346	100	347	100	348	100	349	100	350	100	351	100
352	100	353	100	354	100	355	100	356	100	357	100
358	100	359	100	360	100	361	100	362	100	363	100
364	100	365	100	366	100	367	100	368	100	369	100
370	100	371	100	372	100	373	100	374	100	375	100
376	100	377	100	378	100	379	100	380	100	381	100
382	100	383	100	384	100	385	100	386	100	387	100
388	100	389	100	390	100	391	100	392	100	393	100
394	100	395	100	396	100	397	100	398	100	399	100
400	100	401	100	402	100	403	100	404	100	405	100
406	100	407	100	408	100	409	100	410	100	411	100
412	100	413	100	414	100	415	100	416	100	417	100
418	100	419	100	420	100	421	100	422	100	423	100
424	100	425	100	426	100	427	100	428	100	429	100
430	100	431	100	432	100	433	100	434	100	435	100
436	100	437	100	438	100	439	100	440	100	441	100
442	100	443	100	444	100	445	100	446	100	447	100
448	100	449	100	450	100	451	100	452	100	453	100
454	100	455	100	456	100	457	100	458	100	459	100
460	100	461	100	462	100	463	100	464	100	465	100
466	100	467	100	468	100	469	100	470	100	471	100
472	100	473	100	474	100	475	100	476	100	477	100
478	100	479	100	480	100	481	100	482	100	483	100
484	100	485	100	486	100	487	100	488	100	489	100
490	100	491	100	492	100	493	100	494	100	495	100
496	100	497	100	498	100	499	100	500	100	501	100
502	100	503	100	504	100	505	100	506	100	507	100
508	100	509	100	510	100	511	100	512	100	513	100
514	100	515	100	516	100	517	100	518	100	519	100
520	100	521	100	522	100						



**TEACHERS IN
THE NEWS**

**Playing a
harsher
tune**

BY MICHAEL DIXON

AS Ms SALLY SIDLEY came out of her classroom, a dozen children stood around fidgeting with assorted guitars. Aged between seven and 11, they were gathered for her regular Wednesday lunchtime music lesson at Avishayes School in Chard, Somerset.

But that day's newspaper headlines said: "Teachers' union parts for protest". Part of the protest ordered by the National Union of Teachers was that its 235,000 members dropped all lunchtime work. Ms Sidley is her school's NUT representative.

"Suddenly I had 12 small faces smiling up at me expectantly," she says. "I'd just about got them playing decently again after the Christmas break. At moments like that the rule book goes out of the window. I gave them their guitar lesson."

By then the NUT's membership among the school's dozen teachers was already down from eight to seven. Mr Paul Upton,

BR chief's £1.5bn challenge

BY ROBIN PAULLEY

BRITISH RAIL announced yesterday that it would buy about 1,500 locomotives in the next 25 years costing about £1.5bn at today's prices, but said that it would not necessarily buy British.

Mr Bob Reid, BR chairman, drew a challenge to British manufacturers by indicating that he would go out to tender internationally to make sure "we buy only the very best product."

He implicitly criticised the locomotive industry when he addressed the railway division of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

He hoped BR's long-term needs would lead to re-establishment of locomotive-building capability serving home and overseas markets.

"But there seems to be a substantial difference between the performance, particularly availability and reliability, of American diesel locomotives and those at present operating on British Rail."

Mr Reid has recently been in the U.S., where he was impressed by locomotives made by General Motors. The British companies faced with Mr Reid's challenge are BR's subsidiary engineering company British Rail Engineering (Brel), and two private-sector engineering companies, GEC and Brush.

He said: "We have a responsibility to make sure we buy only the very best product, one which will give us high availability, high reliability, low fuel consumption and low maintenance cost."

Coupling normally accounted for 80 per cent of the rail freight business, but was down to 10 per cent for the past year. "We have lost over £200m in

revenue, we have allowed road transport to get hold of our core traffic and given them 12 months to practise ways of carrying it more effectively than we do."

"We have lost customers for good, and may well have so destroyed the basis of our freight business that network freight itself could be in jeopardy," Mr Reid said.

Rail unions agreed on Thursday to continue supporting the striking miners by refusing to move coal. The immediate result was that rail investment could not be increased as planned, he added.

Plans for rail investment involve a record £1.08bn. The £306m electrification of the London-Edinburgh East Coast main line was recently announced.

U.S. holds off on Japan car curbs

BY STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON

JAPAN will not be pressed to curb car exports to the U.S. for a fifth year when the "voluntary" restraint agreement expires at the end of this month, President Ronald Reagan said yesterday.

However, Mr Reagan coupled the decision with a warning that the U.S. expected Japan to respond with important concessions in current negotiations between the countries. These are on improving access to Japanese markets for U.S. products ranging from electronics and telecommunications equipment to timber.

"It is my decision not to urge

the Japanese to extend their voluntary export restraints on autos into the U.S.," the President said.

He added: "In taking this action, I hope we can look forward to reciprocal treatment by Japan concerning the high level discussions under way between our two countries in the weeks ahead." The voluntary agreement had limited Japanese car exports to the U.S. to 1.85m units a year.

U.S. trade officials complained this week about what they saw as lack of progress in the talks with Japan. Mr William Brock, the President's special trade rep-

resentative, has attacked the failure to reach agreement on new voluntary restraints on Japanese steel exports. There are fears that failure to settle on steel could endanger the effectiveness of the import curbs agreed with countries such as Mexico, South Africa and Australia.

Mr Brock told congressmen on Thursday that he and his colleagues "as well as many members of Congress are rapidly losing patience with the slowness of the market opening process in Japan."

The decision on car quotas

Fiat and Ford seek European market link

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN IN MILAN

FIAT, the leading Italian motor group, is holding intensive talks with Ford, the second largest U.S. motor company, which could lead to a co-operative agreement for the European market. Such a deal would be Fiat's first with a U.S. motor group.

Fiat said yesterday that a "working group" of executives from Fiat Auto, the group's car-making subsidiary, and Ford executives met and studied prospects for co-operation.

"We are searching for ways to collaborate in the European market. We are trying to identify forms of industrial co-operation," Fiat said. It is understood

that this could range from the joint production of components to the launch of a jointly produced car.

Fiat shares rose sharply during two days when rumours about the talks with Ford had spread through the Milan stock market. They closed yesterday at £2,883 (1.28s), up 7 per cent from their level of £2,880 on Wednesday.

Word of high-level contacts between Fiat and Ford was first leaked on New Year's eve, but the Turin-based group's largest private sector company sought to play down reports. Yesterday, however, it became clear that serious

negotiations were under way, although no agreement is expected to be announced for several weeks at least.

Fiat said: "We are trying to achieve economies of scale in the European car market, which is going through a difficult period. It makes sense for us to seek a way of lowering production costs and this has always been Fiat policy."

Fiat denied Bourse rumours to the effect that Ford was planning to acquire the 13.5 per cent share stake in Fiat now held by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank. The possibility of a share deal was not ruled out.

Fiat and Ford already have some links, though they are limited. Both are involved in the continuously variable transmission project developed by Van Doorn's Transmissie of the Netherlands. In addition, Fiat sells aluminium cast cylinder heads to Ford and to Chrysler through its Teksid division. The Italian company also sells automated machine tools to the U.S. motor industry.

Ford of Europe said yesterday: "We have talks with many other companies and as a matter of policy never comment until there is something hard and fast to discuss."

Jaguar chairman quits, Page 3

Miners' conference Continued from Page 1

Derbyshire and Yorkshire, which are strongly left-led, may also specify an amnesty as a precondition.

The Durham mechanics, whose council meets today, will put no proposal to that meeting following a tied vote on its proposal to return to work. The executive felt bound by an earlier decision not to return while some of its members were sacked.

The executive of the Power Group, meeting yesterday, voted to sign the NCB agreement, arguing that by entering into negotiations with the board more it could achieve some form of amnesty for the sacked strikers, while the scale of pit closures would be no worse.

"He thinks the 4 per cent pay rise we've been offered leaves us so ridiculously undervalued that any action that might improve our position is justified," Ms Sidney explains.

The daughter of two as well, she has been teaching for 18 years since getting her degree in geography. Although in the pay grade above the basic salary scale she earns £9,500 a year.

Three more of the NUT members reluctantly joined the protest. Two others were opposed, and also decided to leave the union. Sally Sidney could not make up her mind. Then she got a letter from the Somerset education authority threatening to dock her pay if she refused to work out of hours.

"That hardened me. I'm sure most teachers feel the same. Here are the employers refusing to pay us as professionals and at the same time ordering us to behave as professionals in doing lots of extra work. It was a gross personal insult."

"We're a very professional staff. The head sees that. Ever since he came here he's been getting us together thinking how we could do things better, and helping each other. If we have to stop having free-time staff meetings, we're going to lose as well as everyone else. But Paul's one in a thousand. He's not only an excellent teacher. He's a manager."

In Ms Sidney's experience, good management can make previously nondescript teachers sparkle. But while unanimous the good staff are crushingly underpaid, most at Avishayes accept that some teachers are bad enough to deserve nothing but the sack.

"The problem is, if you're not lucky in having one of the few really good heads, who will see that your work is assessed fairly? Parents wouldn't want to know. You couldn't count on the country administrators. Apart from the few very good advisers who visit us, we never see people from the authority except when they come to say they're against something, cutting something we can't give us something they'd promised."

"In that case, all we teachers can count on is a strong union. None of us wants confrontation. But if the management isn't capable of anything better confrontation it'll have to be."

Attack on dollar Continued from Page 1

only if the U.S. Federal Reserve is persuaded to play a more active role.

The Fed's dollar sales this week were thought to be on a larger scale than previously, but still relatively insignificant in relation to the overall size of the intervention.

The January rise in the U.S. index of leading economic indicators, which is designed to predict the direction of the economy months ahead, boosted expectations of a solid rise in U.S. output over the first quarter.

The Commerce Department in Washington reported that the index jumped 1.7 per cent in

January after several months in which it was essentially flat.

The Department said that it revised the December data to show a 0.5 per cent fall in the index after a 0.5 per cent rise in November.

The Reagan Administration welcomed the figures as confirmation of its optimism about immediate economic prospects. A White House spokesman said the rise, taken with other economic statistics, showed "the economic horizon is very bright."

Mr Malcolm Baldridge, U.S. Commerce Department Secretary, said that the data "shows renewed upward momentum in

employment and output."

He found particularly encouraging the gains in orders for consumer goods, the component of the index which surged most strongly.

Mr Baldridge noted that the decline in contracts and orders for plant and equipment might be a sign that the strength of the dollar was hurting U.S. capital goods manufacturers.

On Thursday the U.S. Government reported that imports and the trade deficit had begun to rise sharply again.

Though most economists predict 3.4 per cent real growth for the U.S. economy in the first quarter, some now suggest the rise could be as high as 6 per cent.

Wall Street is concerned that with the money supply expanding rapidly, such a rate of growth could lead the Federal Reserve Board to tighten its monetary policy.

The fall-off in savers' funds has prompted several societies, including the Woolwich, one of the five largest, to launch special high-return investment accounts. These eventually will have to be reflected in higher mortgage rates, irrespective of a further hardening of market interest rates.

UK today: Dollars in the US: some sun for oil, in central and E. England: showers in S. areas. ...

Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday

Aleppo C 13 55 Corfu C 11 52 Larnaca a 7 45 Peking F 2 36

Algiers C 22 72 Dublin Or 7 45 Madrid C 8 48 Prague C 1 34

Amman C 2 38 Istanbul C 11 52 Malaga C 14 57 Rome C 13 55

Bahrain C 17 53 Edinburgh C 12 57 Malaga C 13 55

Barcelona F 15 59 Fero F 15 59 Malta F 16 61 Tokyo Jo 15 59

Belgrade C 12 59 Florence C 12 59 Malta C 17 59

Berlin R 4 38 Frankfort C 1 34 Malta C 17 59

Bogota C 1 34 Gibraltar C 17 59 Malta C 17 59

Brisbane C 11 52 Glasgow Or 4 39 Milan C 18 59

Buenos Aires C 2 32 Germany C 8 48 Milan C 19 59

Burnley C 1 32 Hong Kong Or 15 61 Monaco C 19 59

Bombay S 33 91 Bombay Or 15 61 Nairobi C 11 52

Bordeaux C 11 52 Innsbruck S 11 52 Nairobi C 11 52

Boulogne C 6 43 Inverness F 7 45 Naples C 12 54

Brisbane C 10 52 Istanbul C 4 37 Naples C 13 52

Budapest S 2 28 Jersey C 9 48 N. Delhi S 27 51 Tel Aviv S 1 31 59

Cairo F 17 63 Joburg C 26 79 New York F 2 38 Valencia C 17 62

Cardiff C 8 48 Lima C 22 72 Nice C 12 54 Valencia C 18 62

Cape T. F. 21 70 London C 12 54 Mexico City C 13 54

Chichester C 37 London F 26 79 Paris C 13 54 Vienna C 1 30 59

Cooperage S 8 46 London C 5 41 Paris S 10 50 Warsaw C 10 50 Zurich S 10 50

C-CLOUDY, Dr-DRIZZLE, F-FAR, FG-FOG, H-HAIL, R-RAIN, S-SUNNY, Si-SLEET, T-THUNDER.

UK today: Dollars in the US: some sun for oil, in central and E. England: showers in S. areas. ...

Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday

Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday Yesterdays midday</